



CLEARVIEW

Curriculum Connection

Volume 7; Issue 250

April 4, 2025

Clearview Work on State Comprehensive Literacy Grant Update

As many are aware Clearview Local Schools is applying for the State of Ohio's Comprehensive Literacy Grant. In 2024, Ohio was awarded a \$60 million Comprehensive Literacy State Development grant from the U.S. Department of Education. This grant will support teaching and learning opportunities to help more Ohio students advance their literacy skills, with a focus on those who have been traditionally underserved. Clearview has been marked as a Priority One district which means that the high need that exists for serving a low socio-economic population has already been identified by the grant managers. The goal is to complete and submit the grant by the state's deadline of **April 8th**, 2025, next week. Which will indeed be accomplished.

Many grant questions exist (50+) that mostly pertain to literacy instruction and programming that already exists in the district. The grant also requires the submission of a Local Literacy Plan. Clearview had one created prior as many may recall; however, the state requires the plan to be on their template that they have created. Therefore, that work also needed to be updated for the process. Grant allowances include the addition of staff that can assist with instructional support and student intervention, literacy resources, and specific programming. Clearview will request support through the grant accordingly that can potentially assist with the state requirement on Reading Improvement Plans and required intervention hours that exist.

Special thanks to our three building principals for their assistance and support on the grant application process: **Lynne Stark**, **Laura Manning**, and **Noeleen Rothacker**. VES AP **Jen Fazio** also assisted. Also, special thanks to **Kate Hamilton** from State Support Team 2 who served as an important consultant throughout the process. She provided additional info regarding the grant application process and provided valuable assistance regarding our Local Literacy Plan.

Upon submission of our grant I will keep the district informed regarding any notifications that we are provided regarding a potential award. If you would like to read more about the grant application process or if you'd like to review the updated Clearview Local Literacy Plan click on one of the links below. If you have any questions on the grant information or the process just let me know and I will be happy to assist. Stay tuned!!

LINK: Clearview Local Literacy Plan **LINK: Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant**

**Effective
Leaders
know that
taking care
of staff is
putting
students
first.**

~Brad
Johnson

Upcoming Dates:

- ♦4/8: OST Gr3&4 Math Exam VES
- ♦4/8: OST Gr5-8 Math Exam DMS
- ♦4/8: OST Biology Exam CHS
- ♦4/9: OST Geometry Exam CHS
- ♦4/10: OST Gr3&4 Math Exam VES
- ♦4/10: OST Gr5-8 Science Exam DMS
- ♦4/17: No School; Spring Break Begins Thru 4/25

Clearview Curriculum Connection Issue 250!!

This edition marks the **250th** release of the **Clearview Curriculum Connection**! As our district's newsletter for all things teaching and learning, the *Connection* remains a vital communication resource for all Clipper educators K-12. It also serves as a platform to celebrate our people and to highlight the great work happening throughout Clearview. The Connection is also posted on the district website each week under the Curriculum section for all of the school community to review!

For a bit of nostalgia, check out the link below to revisit *Curriculum Connection* Issue #1, that was released long ago back on **August 24th, 2018** ...

LINK: Clearview Curriculum Connection #1

Clearview Science of Reading Completion Update

This is an update on Clearview's compliance with the state's Science of Reading mandate. Many staff members have been diligently completing their required online modules - Thank you for your efforts! Please continue to send me your certificate of completion, as I have collected many already. Our goal remains **100% compliance**. If you need any assistance to ensure completion, I am happy to assist. In addition, completion status will determine stipends that will eventually be provided. You can review your status using the link below. If there is an "X" in the Completion column, I have received your certificate. If you notice any discrepancies, please reach out to me and I will assist. **Deadline for completion is May 1st!** Thank you for your time and commitment to get this important training initiative accomplished!!

LINK: Clearview SoR Course Completion Status

Ashland University Science of Reading Update

This is an update regarding those staff members also taking on extra work to gain Ashland University credit to coincide with their SoR Pathway training. The list of those staff members is in the graphic. Check the link below for those extra requirements. However, I have also added a column within the same link above for AU participation and completion status. Check and let me know if needed!

Andrew Holland	Tiffany Duke
Jamie Dodson	Amber McEwen
Jennifer Parker	Erica Crawford
Kari Cooley	Holly Miller
Kaylee Green	Jenny McMahon
Kelly McMillion	Molly Streater
Nick Guerrieri	Jenn Smercina

LINK: Ashland SoR Course Assignments **LINK: Ashland University Completion Status**

Value Added Roster Verification Update - Teacher Verification Period to Start Next Week

The Roster Verification process is underway for Value Added. This identifies teacher instructional influence on annual student progress. Next week teachers can verify rosters...

- ♦ **School Setup Period (March 18 – April 8):** Principals gain access to verify the staff list and staff assignments.
- ♦ **Teacher Roster Verification Period (April 9 – April 29):** Teachers gain access to verify their class rosters and claim instructional responsibility for the students they taught, including the months they taught them, and the percentage of instruction they provided each student. Principals monitor teacher completion.
- ♦ **Principal Review and Approval Period (April 30 – May 22):** Principals review staff instructional responsibilities and alerts before giving final approval.

Value Added Teachers:

- ♦ Grades 4-8 ELA
- ♦ Grades 4-8 Math
- ♦ Grades 5 & 8 Science
- ♦ Algebra I
- ♦ American Government
- ♦ American History
- ♦ Biology
- ♦ English II
- ♦ Geometry

LINK: Roster Verification Access

Instructional Strategies Review: Enhanced Direct Instruction

In each issue of the Connection I will review a particular instructional strategy: Direct Instruction. Misconceptions exist with Direct Instruction. Boring? It does not have to be!! While direct instruction is a teacher-centered approach, it is most effective when matched to appropriate learning tasks. Six essential steps exist with direct instruction: 1) introduction/review, 2) presentation of new material, 3) guided practice, 4) feedback and corrections, 5) independent practice, and 6) evaluation/review. It should be paired with structured lessons, clear guidance, and active student engagement through the use of various learning activities. The inclusion of digital resources like Edpuzzle, Kahoot, and Blooket demonstrates how technology can enhance direct instruction while maintaining structure. The article linked below can serve as a valuable resource for educators looking to refine and enhance their direct instruction with modern tools and techniques. Check it out! ...

Boring? Not so fast!!
Check out the article
link below for great
ideas to enhance
Direct Instruction!!

LINK: Great Ideas to Enhance Direct Instruction

Active, Engaged, and Innovative Classroom Learning in Clearview!

Each issue of the Curriculum Connection will include reports from our classrooms around the district. We want to do our best to promote active, engaged, and innovative lesson plans. What are your colleagues doing to engage Clearview students? The idea is to show appreciation for the hard work it takes to plan and develop such lessons.

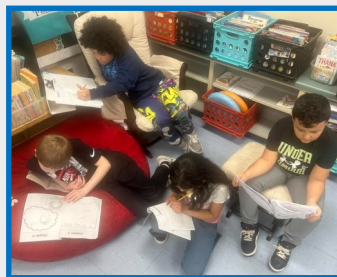
I made a fun stop into **Wendie Hutsenpiller's** Spanish class this past week at CHS. Wendie was conducting a Spanish culture lesson on the piñata! Her students informed me that the practice originated in Asia. Eventually it made its way to Spain where the practice

became assimilated into the culture as a practice for celebration. What better way to learn about this interesting custom than to make one!! Kids engaged in creating a pinata of their own. Wendie provided the materials and kids worked in collaboration to create their own designs. I was impressed with their knowledge and also impressed with their creativity!!



Literacy instruction remains to be a key goal and focus area in Clearview. Case in point was witnessed this past week in **Andrew Holland's** grade 2 classroom. Andrew had kids engaged in Literacy Stations. First Andrew created strategic groups based on need that served as a form of differentiation.

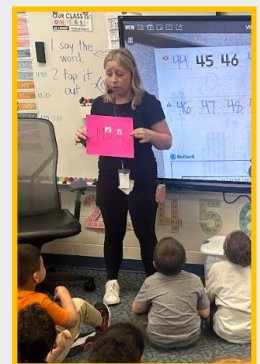
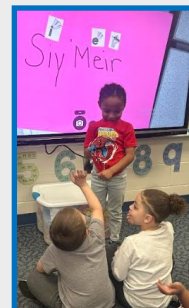
Stations provided an activity for specific skills. Andrew had to also provide the required materials for each station - well organized! This activity required clear expectations and structure; both of which Andrew provided. It was great to see the kids all engaged and working together diligently in small groups throughout the classroom and even the hall. Impressive!



I made a stop into **Ryan Lewis'** grade 6 ELA class this past week at DMS. Ryan was introducing a novel unit for *Chasing Lincoln's Killer* by James L. Swanson. Since the novel takes place during the Civil War, Ryan introduced it by conducting a history lesson. To engage kids he created a web quest activity. He displayed several slides regarding the Civil War time period. He described pictures of war scenes and attempted to stir excitement for the novel in the process. Kids then independently went through the web quest that covered several other aspects of the Civil War time period, complete with graphic pictures and other links to gather insightful background info that will help students with reading the novel. Nice work!!



It's no secret that this is an awesome kindergarten class! I made a fun visit to **Macey Lamb's** kindergarten class on Thursday this past week. Macey led the class through a Secret Stories lesson; a brain-based reading strategy that helps young learners decode words by revealing the "secret" phonics patterns and letter sounds through fun, engaging stories and visuals, making phonics instruction more intuitive and memorable. For example, "ir" is sometimes taught as the sound of screeching brakes - 'Errrrr!' like a car stopping suddenly. During my visit Macey had kids go to the front of the class to reveal the number of Secret Stories within their first name. Awesome Macey!!



More Awesome Class Visits to Report in Clearview!!

Recently grade 5 ELA teacher **Karrie Stafford** designed a five-day lesson focused on reviewing text structures. She dedicated each day to a specific type. To reinforce understanding, students practiced highlighting key words and creating visual representations using graphic organizers.

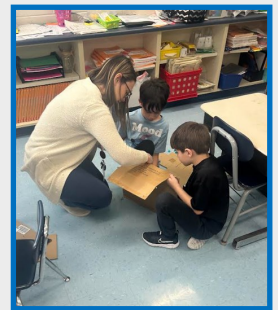
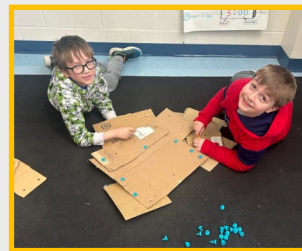


Engaging passages about ice cream provided a fun and consistent theme throughout the unit. To assess, students participated in a Jeopardy-style game to identify different text structures, culminating in a well-earned treat of ice cream for all! This hands-on approach not only strengthened comprehension, it fostered a fun, interactive learning environment! I scream, you scream!

Thanks to connections made through **Andreanna Schroeder**, 1st grade teacher at VES, Lorain STEM makes frequent visits to our elementary school to work with students. I made a stop into **Elizabeth**

Krajcik's 1st grade classroom

to see one of the STEM activities in action. Kids were provided cardboard cutouts and a bag of plastic punch pins.

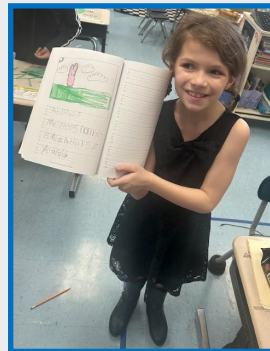


They were then put into groups to collaborate to make a book nook for the raccoon housed at the Lorain Public Library. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Kids used critical thinking skills using these content areas to follow directions to successfully create their project. Not easy. Great work by



all!! And thanks Andreanna and Elizabeth!

I got the fantastic opportunity to observe a creative Easter themed lesson in **Jennifer Anderson's** 1st grade classroom at VES. Jennifer created packets for the kids titled "My Peep's Baby Book." The pages required kids to write about a unique experience of the birth of a baby chick - or better still, a Peep! To add to the experience Jennifer provided baby eggs (Sour Patch Eggs ha) and the kids cut fake grass. The eggs would then be dispersed with the grass within a bag to house the living conditions for a newborn



Peep. One student was very proud to show me her successful writing within the Peep packet. Nice work Jennifer - very creative and engaging learning activity!!

Students in 3rd grade are learning valuable lessons about recycling and the environment. Recently at VES I observed a group of hard working 3rd graders in the hallway led by 3rd grade teacher **Jamie Dodson**. These kids go classroom to classroom every week collecting all of the paper that has been disposed of in the specific recycling canisters that exist. They unload them first into a giant carrier then in cooperation with the Lorain City Service Department the carrier of recyclables gets handed over for proper disposal. This is a great example of community engagement for the kids and allows them to have ownership of the work and ownership of the overall program. Awesome collaboration and opportunity!

