



# CLEARVIEW

## Curriculum Connection

Volume 6; Issue 211

February 16, 2024

### Clearview Team Heading to the Ron Clark Academy in May!

The Clearview Local Schools for the third year in a row will take a team of educators to the **Ron Clark Academy** in Atlanta, Georgia for a day of professional learning. The event for 2024 is scheduled for **May 10th**. A combination of seventeen educators from all three school buildings will travel to take part in this exciting event. The current team is listed in the graphic. Planning has begun! Those that have attended the RCA Experience in the past can attest to the valuable impact of this amazing professional development day. What makes the experience so unique is the combination of instructional learning sessions and classroom observations. The classrooms are built with arena style seating so that participants have a great view of the RCA's amazing teachers working with their students. It is well organized and structured; there is no down time! Ron Clark, the staff, and the students exhibit lots of energy and enthusiasm throughout the day. Check link below to learn more:

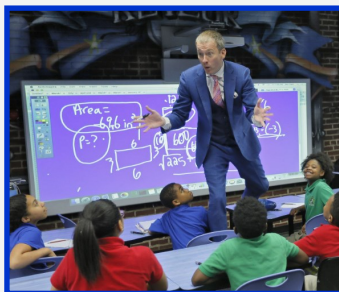


### RCA Bound:

**Meagan Khandekar**  
**Stephanie Reddy**  
**Jackie Michalek**  
**Haley Bednarski** ★  
**Kelly Schenk** ★  
**Kelly Stephenson**  
**Andreana Schroeder**  
**Penny Reinhart**  
**Marci Southard** ★  
**Dustie Cooper** ★  
**Briana Potts**  
**Doug Benzel**  
**Jenn Smercina** ★  
**Mike Collier**  
**Hollie Sloboda**  
**Nick Dimacchia** ★  
**Matt Gulish** ★



Welcome  
Back  
Clearview!



## RCAEXP

**LINK: Ron Clark Academy**

**If I've gotten better at teaching over the years, it's not because I've learned more about my subject; it's because I've learned more about kids.**

~Monte Syrie

### Upcoming Dates:

- ♦ **2/20: DMS ELA PD Session #2 at the ESCLC**
- ♦ **3/7: CHS Gr11 ACT Testing**
- ♦ **3/13: DLT Meeting; 8am-3pm; CHS**
- ♦ **3/18: District PD half day 8am-11am**
- ♦ **3/18: Staff Lunch @CHS; 11am-12pm**
- ♦ **3/18: End of 3rd Grading Period**

### Clearview Team Attending School Safety Training

The Clearview Local Schools sent representatives to participate in a school safety training today, **February 16th**, 2024. The event is titled **"Understanding Today's Threats Against Schools and Students"** and is being conducted by The Ohio School Safety Center in partnership with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and United States Secret Service (USSS). It's being held at North Olmsted High School and will be attended by School Resource Officers and School Administrators throughout Northeast Ohio. Clearview **SRO Rick Nisenbom** and CHS Principal **Noeleen Rothacker** will be participating. DMS Assistant Principal **Penny Rinehart** was to attend but stayed back to assist DMS - thanks Penny! School safety will remain an important topic and initiative to address in Clearview.

## Ohio State Testing Spring 2024 Preparation: Test Schedule and Test Atmosphere

Each issue of the Curriculum Connection from now until Spring will contain a section on Ohio State Testing Preparation. I will include details about test scheduling, test preparation, and test background. In this issue I am sharing information regarding family engagement for state testing. Most of our OST preparation is rightfully focused on students. Teachers continue to review standards, analyze data, administer practice testing, etc. to help students get ready for the exams. However, it is also important that schools involve families/parents in state testing. Each student's family can play a positive role in supporting the emotional and academic preparedness of their child before and during the testing window. **Communication is key and parents should be made aware of several elements of state testing.** They should know the rationale behind testing and the stakes involved in testing, especially the high school End-of-Course exams. Parents should know the testing dates and alternative schedules that also exist. They can help to ensure that students get proper rest and nutrition for test days. Do not assume parents have no interest in OST; share the info regardless and participate in family engagement activities so that both the school and the home can best support students during state test time. To learn more check this article from Grand Canyon University:

### **Family Engagement Activities for OST:**

1. Inform Families About Testing
2. Family Involvement in Test Preparation
3. Affirm Families for Their Role on Testing Day
4. Prepare Families to Meet Expectations

**LINK: Family Engagement Activities for Ohio State Testing**

## Durling Middle School ELA Team Continues PD Session Next Week


DMS ELA teachers will continue a PD session next week on **February 20th** at the Educational Service Center of Lorain County. This team of educators will further engage in their writing rubric work and well as vertical articulation work. The event will be facilitated by **Kate Hamilton** from State Support Team 2. This is important collaboration that will help to identify common language and expectations. This vertical session is also important as there are 5 new ELA teachers that are part of this group. Some new to ELA and some new to the district. Thanks in advance to this group of teachers. (listed to the right)

### **DMS ELA PD Participants:**

- ♦ Turner Jones
- ♦ Dustie Cooper
- ♦ Amber McEwen
- ♦ Pat Bray
- ♦ Jenny McMahon
- ♦ Jen Koehn
- ♦ Karrie Stafford

## Instructional Strategies Review: Students Create Their Own Test Questions

In each issue of the Connection I will review a particular instructional strategy: Students Create Their Own Test Questions. Is it cheating if students create your next unit test? Many learning advantages exist in the process. Kids are actually searching, analyzing, and identifying the main content of a learning unit when they are tasked with creating the test themselves. Researchers evaluated a strategy whereby students not only developed the learning materials for the class but also wrote a significant part of the exams. The result? A 10 percentage point increase in the final grade, attributed largely to an increase in student engagement and motivation. For such an activity many ideas can be incorporated. Kids can work cooperatively to create a test. They can also use technology to create a test through Kahoot or Quizz. Kids can create tests then compete by tutoring, prepping, and administering their test to other groups. This can all be done through the teacher serving as the facilitator and approving test questions that will be used. Check out the article link below from Edutopia that first covers creating effective questions then covers students creating their own test questions:

Asking students to create their own test questions has a powerful impact on learning. 

**LINK: Students Create Their Own Test Questions**

## Clearview Professional Development Day Preview for March 18th

Looking ahead to the **March 18th** 2024 District Professional Development Day, here is a brief preview of the events that will take place for staff. The PD event is scheduled for a half day running from 8:00am-11:00am with all sessions taking place at CHS. As we have done in the past, a district staff lunch will once again be provided afterwards.

### Keynote with Dr. James Knight

8:00am-9:15am

CHS Auditorium

K-1 teachers; All teachers grades 4-12; Classified

Many of you may know **Dr. Knight** from our last Keystone Schools collaborative PD day. Dr. Knight will be in the Clearview to give a new presentation regarding Cultural Humility in the educational pursuit to develop well rounded students.



### Dyslexia Modules

8:00am-11:00am

CHS Room 114

Grades 2 and 3 Teachers

Training continues regarding the state requirement for Dyslexia; selected teachers will participate. **Kate Hamilton** from SST2 will once again facilitate the session.



### Literacy Data Review, Intervention, and Organization

9:30am-11:00am

CHS Room 115

Kindergarten and Grade 1 Teachers

With the new dyslexia testing and the mandates associated with intervention, the K-1 teachers will collaborate to review data and plan accordingly. Admin facilitated.



### Special Education Compliance and Protocols Update

9:30am-11:00am

K-12 Special Education Teachers

CHS Room 202

This learning session will involve a review of particular special education compliance measures and proper protocols for working with case loads. It will be facilitated by

**Meagan Khandekar** and State Support Team 2's **Melissa Wagner**.



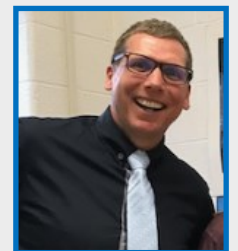
### The Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Classroom

9:30am-11:00am

CHS Media Center

Teachers Grades 4-12

**Mike Triska** from Nort2h Tech will return to Clearview to give an exciting presentation on the use of Artificial Intelligence tools in the classroom. How can this new technology aid classroom instruction? What educational capabilities exist? How can work be made easier? Teachers will learn about AI and work directly with AI tools.



### Effective De-escalation Strategies with Students

9:30am-11:00am

CHS Room 203

Classified Staff

Participants in this session will learn about de-escalation strategies to use for defiant, agitated, and aggravated students. **Cathy Papp** from the Educational Service Center of Lorain County will lead this important session that can assist kids in crisis.



Following our morning of Professional Learning all staff are invited to stop into the CHS cafeteria for lunch. We will welcome back **Gonzalez Grocery** from Lorain serving Puerto Rican favorites: Pastelillos, Rice and Beans, Chicken, Pork, Potato Salad, and more. This is a great opportunity to share lunch time again as a unified staff after a busy morning of PD.

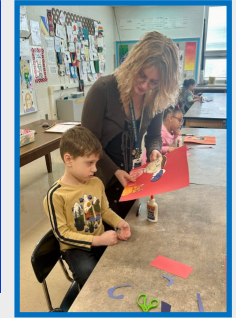




## Active, Engaged, and Innovative Classroom Learning in Clearview!

Each issue of 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.

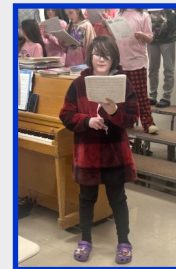
Self Portrait! I stopped into a kindergarten art class this past week at VES. Teacher **Katherine Baumgartner** was leading the kids in a self-portrait project. First, kids had to draw and color themselves along with something that helped to represent them. Most chose family pets. Next, the kids had to cutout their pictures and paste them on construction paper. Katherine's lesson was not just to teach creativity but it was also a lesson on fine motor skills. Students at that level must learn how to properly use scissors and cut accurately. However, the colorful and creative portraits were something special. I am sure parents and family members will enjoy a memento from their child's kinder year!!



Lessons on World War II at CHS. I stopped into **Scott Sloboda's** American History class at CHS on Monday. Scott and Academic Coach **Chris Ellis** were using the One Teach One Assist model of co-teaching for a lesson regarding the causes of WWII. To start the unit Scott identified the impact of the invasion of Pearl Harbor. He had stations posted throughout the room and in the hallway where kids had to take "doodle" notes allowing for creativity. For my visit, Scott led the class in a compare and contrast activity (a Marzano Top 9 strategy) using President Franklin Roosevelt's speech to congress asking for a declaration of war in 1941 and George W. Bush's speech addressing the nation after 9/11 in 2001. Critical thinking needed!!



I was treated to an impromptu choir concert this past week at DMS! The 6th grade class was practicing for their spring concert with director **Jodi Young**. I heard the choir sing two Disney songs. The first was Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious from the movie *Mary Poppins*. The second was Colors of the Wind from the Disney movie *Pocahontas*. I was very impressed with the student solos that were given. Not easy to sing, let alone sing solo, in front of middle school peers. These kids did awesome and projected with confidence. Jodi provides each student with the sheet music for the song; students fluctuate their tone based on the musical notes that follow with the lyrics. Thanks for the show!



"Dearly Beloved, we are gathered here today to celebrate the union of letters Q and U." A wedding was held at Vincent Elementary this past week on Valentine's Day. In **Kelly**



**Stephenson's** kindergarten classroom, she conducted a learning activity, the wedding of letters Q and U! I received an invite along with all of the kindergarten classes at VES. The learning objective with this fun activity is to teach the kids that the letter q is never without the letter u; they are always found together like they are married. Kelly conducted a wedding ceremony along with Academic Coach **Rebecca Klembara** who served as the officiant. The ceremony was conducted then the real fun followed at the reception. Lots of fun, celebration, and dancing took place with the teachers and the kinders! Great activity Kelly, Rebecca, and the entire K team!! Kids will not forget this lesson!!