



# CLEARVIEW Curriculum Connection

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## February 2025 Black History Month Learning Activities

Annually, February is a time to celebrate Black History Month, it's an excellent opportunity to engage our students in meaningful learning activities that highlight the significant contributions, achievements, and events of Black individuals throughout history. Black history is American history. By incorporating Black History Month into your classroom, you help foster a learning environment where all students can understand the importance of history, diversity, and cultural awareness. I encourage you to explore various resources and activities that can bring this significant history to life for our students. Arrange a structured time and schedule within your lesson plans this month to highlight black history. Consider activities like exploring influential Black leaders, reading stories or poems by Black authors, or discussing important events in the Civil Rights Movement, etc. You could also invite guest speakers, host student-led projects, or organize classroom discussions to further deepen understanding and connection to this significant part of our shared history.



There are many resources that are available. Check out the links below that can be reviewed for ideas to use in your Clipper classroom. There are ideas that can be incorporated for students K-12; all grade levels can benefit. Let's work together to inspire the next generation with knowledge and appreciation for the rich legacy of Black Americans.

**LINK: Black History Month Learning Activities from We Are Teachers**

**LINK: Black History Learning Resources from the National Education Association**

**LINK: Black History Month Micro-Learning Videos for the Classroom**

**I learned that you should not go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw something back.**

~Rosa Parks

### Upcoming Dates:

- ◆ 2/11: Gr7&8 ELA Adoption Meeting
- ◆ 2/13: DMS PT Conferences
- ◆ 2/17: Presidents Day; No School
- ◆ 2/20: Gr5-12 Math Adoption Meeting
- ◆ 2/20: CHS PT Conferences
- ◆ 3/12: 3rd Quarter DLT Meeting; 8am-3pm @CHS
- ◆ 3/14: End of third Grading Period
- ◆ 3/17: District Professional Development Day

### New House System Apparel Sale Now Open!!

Show your spirit for the Clearview PBIS House System! The House System provides a system to support PBIS through Competition, Collaboration, and Leadership. Clearview has an opportunity to be a pioneer and leader in education as we continue this initiative as a district wide "all in" program. For added support, an apparel sale is again available for staff: sweatshirts, quarter zips, long sleeve t-shirts, etc. A sale is also available at this time for students and parents. That info was shared with principals. Sale is open through **February 10th.**



**LINK: Staff House System Apparel Sale**

### **Ohio State Testing: Family Engagement for State Testing**

Starting in January and leading to spring, I will provide a section in the Connection Newsletter devoted to information regarding Ohio State Testing. In this issue I am sharing info on family engagement strategies and the OSTs. While much of our OST preparation focuses on students, with teachers reviewing standards, analyzing data, and administering practice tests, it's equally important to involve families in the process. Parents and guardians play a crucial role in supporting both the emotional and academic readiness of their child before and during the testing period. Effective communication is essential, and families should be informed about key aspects of state testing, such as the purpose of the exams, their importance (particularly for high school End-of-Course exams), testing dates, and any alternative schedules that may exist during test time. Parents can help ensure that students are well-rested and properly nourished on test days. It's important not to assume parents aren't interested in OST - share the information with them and encourage family engagement activities so that both the school and home can best support students during this time. One effective strategy is sending home a **test preparation checklist** for parents, outlining important dates, tips for reducing stress, and ways to help their child stay organized in the leadup to the test. This allows families to stay informed and actively assist in creating a calm, prepared environment for their students as the testing day approaches. To learn more strategies for family engagement, 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 Test Day
4. Prepare Families to Meet Expectations

**[LINK: Family Engagement Activities for Ohio State Testing](#)**

### **Clearview OELPA Testing Underway!**

Eighteen students in Clearview from all three school buildings will soon engage in the Ohio English Language Proficiency Assessment (OELPA), which is designed to evaluate their English language skills and ensure they receive the support they need to succeed academically. A very special thank you goes out to **Tammy San Felippo**, whose hard work and organization ensures that our test administration runs smoothly. Her commitment to supporting English learners is deeply appreciated, and we are grateful for her efforts in ensuring these students are given the best opportunities to thrive. In addition, thanks to our Special Education Director **Meagan Khandekar** for her assistance to organize test accommodations.

### **Instructional Strategies Review: Learn By Teaching**

In each issue of the Connection I will review a particular instructional strategy: Learn By Teaching. To teach is to learn something twice. When students are given the chance to lead and present a lesson, it can be a highly impactful learning experience. Student-led presentations showcase the culmination of their learning, offering an opportunity to blend various essential skills into a single summative project. The student becomes the teacher; **peer teaching** can be an effective strategy. Beyond mastering content, student lectures also help develop real-world skills like collaboration, problem-solving, conflict resolution, communication, and research skills that will serve students throughout their lives. For ideas on peer teaching, check out the article link below from Edutopia. Allowing students to "be the experts" on a portion of the unit can foster learning across the whole classroom. Peer teaching is an excellent way to integrate 21st Century skills in the classroom. However, for this approach to be successful, it's important to have structure and clear expectations. Learn more about peer teaching student lecture here:

**"... student lectures also teach tangible real-world skills such as collaboration, problem-solving, conflict resolution, communication, and researching that will travel with our students into their futures."**

**[LINK: Having Students Learn By Teaching](#)**

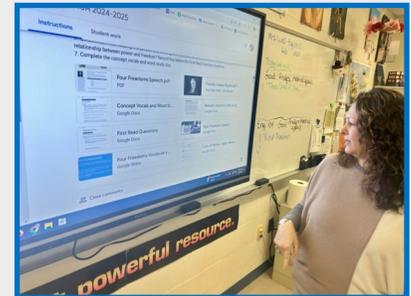
## **Active, Engaged, and Innovative Classroom Learning in Clearview!**

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.

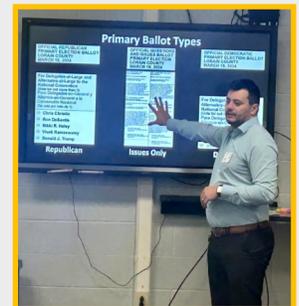
I made a stop into **Jason Christensen's** grade 8 social studies class this past week. He was introducing an interesting project with his students regarding Black History Month. To help start the unit he played a video from Brain Pop. Following the video kids had to answer comprehension questions regarding what they had watched. Jason also allowed for the kids to use a new Brain Pop feature where kids can respond by creating a visual to represent their answer. In addition, Jason provides a list of prominent and important figures in Black History. Using Biography.com kids then select one of the individuals for a report that is presented to the class. Awesome learning activities to coincide with the month! (see page 1!)



During a visit to **Lurlene West's** Grade 10 ELA class at CHS, I observed a highly engaging lesson focused on logos, pathos, and ethos, which are key rhetorical strategies used in persuasive speaking. Logos appeals to logic, using facts and evidence to persuade; pathos taps into emotions, aiming to evoke an emotional response from the audience; and ethos relies on the credibility and trustworthiness of the speaker. The students were participating in an activity where they used a shared Google Doc to analyze passages from political speeches Mrs. West provided, identifying examples of each rhetorical strategy. It was great to see the students collaborate, sharing their insights and evidence, while preparing for their upcoming persuasive speech presentations!! Awesome lesson Lurlene!! Impressive.



Having a guest speaker can be an awesome learning strategy. Special thanks to **Marie Ternes** at CHS who arranged for a representative from the Lorain County Board of Elections to visit Clearview this past week. The guest speaker shared a wealth of knowledge on the local voting process with students in **Miles Jones' Government** classes. The rep not only reviewed the process but he also brought actual voting machines for the kids to utilize in a mock vote.



Pole workers were solicited and the students were able to see actual ballots that they will soon experience in a real vote now that they will be the proper age. Awesome learning experience for these students!

**Clearview High** and **Wellington High** recently organized a student swap, where students from each school visited the other for the day. This initiative provided an opportunity for students to experience a new environment, meet peers from different backgrounds, and share diverse perspectives.



The benefits of such a program are many. Kids build community and foster respect for their peers of diverse backgrounds. Additionally, it helps break down stereotypes, encourages teamwork, and allows students to see different educational settings, ultimately enriching their high school experience. These events are organized to expand students' perspectives, helping them become more flexible and open-minded. Special thanks to Clearview High School Principal **Noeleen Rothacker** at CHS for her leadership on this initiative!!