

March Staff Development Newsletter

A newsletter for the Seward Staff by Dr. Dominy

The Rejuvenation/Reflection Phase of Teaching

Welcome to March everyone!

Many of you have heard Dr. Boogren describe the phases of a first-year teacher's attitude toward teaching. It was also clear as she described these phases that many veteran teachers also feel these phases. According to her work, we should still be in the rejuvenation phase where "Teachers begin feeling more hopeful and can begin focusing on your students' academic performances and your own teaching competence in a way that you could not when you were in the disillusionment phase." (Boogren, 2018)

As the year starts to come to a close, we will move into the reflection phase. This is the phase where we will reflect on all that we have learned this year including which ideas, strategies, elements worked well this year and what things you want to change for next year.

We should end the year in the second anticipation phase where we will begin thinking ahead to next year and all the possibilities that the year will hold.

There is no right or wrong way to feel each of the phases of teaching, these phases are only generalities. If anything, the phases should be confirmation that others are having some of the same emotions and we are not in this profession alone.

I do want to note that Dr. Boogren does note that it is possible to have a second disillusionment phase during the April testing cycle. My hope is that you won't feel this phase as I know that you have done all that you can for your students, and now it is time for the students to demonstrate their learning. I am proud of each of you.



All Learning is Social and Emotional

We have done a great amount of work this year in the area of Social and Emotional Learning. I appreciate your passion, focus and reflection on the area of social and emotional learning. Our authors have a checklist on page 145 to help us measure our progress in developing social-emotional engagement in our schools. Take a look at this checklist and make note of the things that we do well and identify areas that we need to improve. In the coming months we will take your ideas to help plan professional development in the areas that are opportunities for us.

Upcoming Staff Development Day

The March staff development day will be focused on action planning, both within the action team and in vertical meetings across the district. We will meet in our district action teams to share our progress with the other schools as well as identify gaps in our district plan that may not be addressed in our school plans. By popular demand, we will also be having vertical department-level meetings to discuss K-12 initiatives, content gaps, content strengths, etc. Each building we also have opportunities to practice ALICE and complete a security/administration training for NSCAS based assessments. We will end our day with "Stop the Bleed" training for our Emergency Response Team as well as a Wellness Committee Meeting.