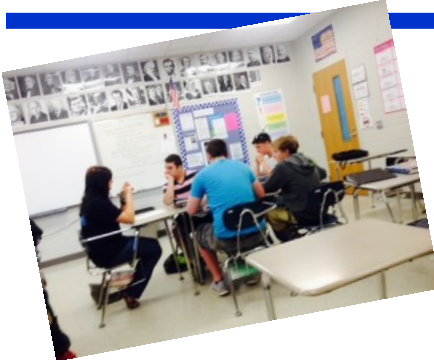
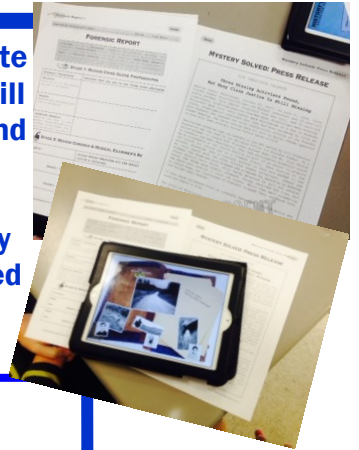


ECS Wildcats at Work



Mrs. Hancock's US 11 History classes investigate historical crime scene photos and documents, fill out a forensics report based on the evidence, and develop a theory of what happened and who is guilty. After presenting their findings, they are given the press release describing what actually happened. Students must tweet the summarized press release to the public in 140 characters!



A major focus of the new standards is their emphases on higher-order thinking skills and the ability to solve complex problems. Students planning to enter the workforce directly after high school, as well as college-bound seniors, need these essential reasoning and decision-making skills equally. This emphasis on higher-order learning is the foundation for the concept of "rigor."

April 30, 2014

Volume 1, Issue #6

Inside this issue:

Rigor in the Classroom	1
Partnership Approach	2
Strategic Teaching	3
Student Engagement & Motivation	4
Cool Teacher Tips	4

Where is the "HOW"?
Many of my fellow teachers and I understand the need for more rigor and challenging our students to help them achieve. We get it. What is lacking is the "how." How is teaching with the new standards different from teaching with the old?

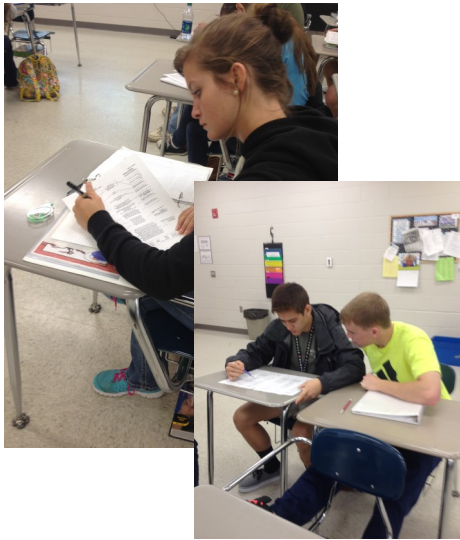
13 Essential Strategies to Achieve Rigor

- Identifying Critical Content
- Previewing New Content
- Organizing Students to Interact with Content
- Helping Students Process Content
- Helping Students Elaborate on Content
- Helping Students Record and Represent Knowledge
- Managing Response Rates with Tiered Questioning Techniques
- Reviewing Content
- Helping Students Practice Skills, Strategies, and Processes
- Helping Students Examine Similarities and Differences
- Helping Students Examine Their Reasoning
- Helping Students Revise Knowledge
- Helping Students Engage in Cognitively Complex Tasks

Teaching for Rigor: A Call for a Critical Instructional Shift
By Robert J. Marzano and Michael D. Toth, March 2014



Partnership Approach



Mrs. Burns' classes used an activity she received from another English teacher in North AL where students dissect a poem.

Troy University faculty and staff members handed out free books at locations in six different cities as part of the annual World Book Night celebration designed to spread the joy of reading. Mrs. Shaffer's 10th grade English class was one of the deserving locations that received free books.

Getting connected to help students grow!



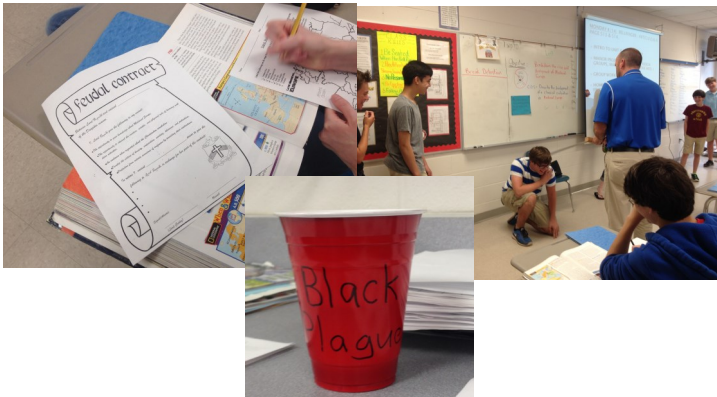
Dr. Sarah Cooper, PHD in Genetics, of Hudson Alpha interact virtually with Mrs. Peacock & Mrs. Krausz's classes through distance learning.



Peacock & Smith Team Up!!!!

Mrs. Peacock teaches Alg II w/ Trig students how scientists use area of convergence to determine blood splatter origin. Mrs. Smith teaches Forensics students the Trig behind calculating area of convergence.





Mr. Reynolds knighted his group leaders as “Lords of the Manor”. Their job was to sign a Feudal contract with the King, identify the parishes on a map, and stay away from the “Black Plague” (consequences for not staying on task)!



Mrs. Ramos teaches 7th graders about the food pyramid, portions, & recipes, all in Spanish. Awesome foundation course for learning Spanish vocabulary!

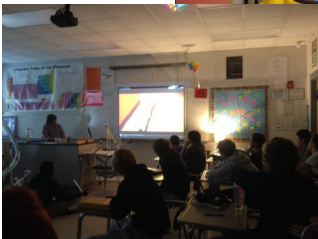


Mrs. Sanders’ World History students visited a crime scene to investigate what happened to Julius Caesar!

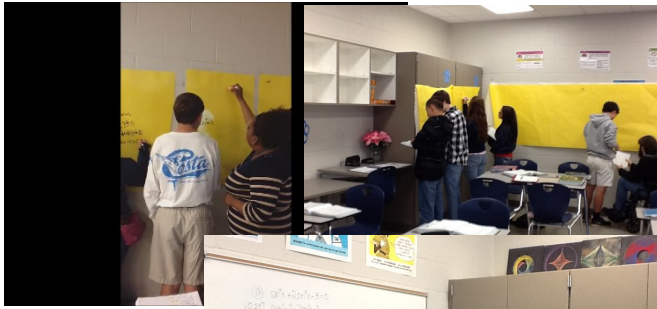


Mrs. Brantley’s 8th grade math students are up, moving, and engaged in station work to review a lesson on circles!

Mrs. Watson’s science students demonstrate mastery of potential and kinetic energy through project based learning. Students were given the choice to present or video their roller coaster in action!

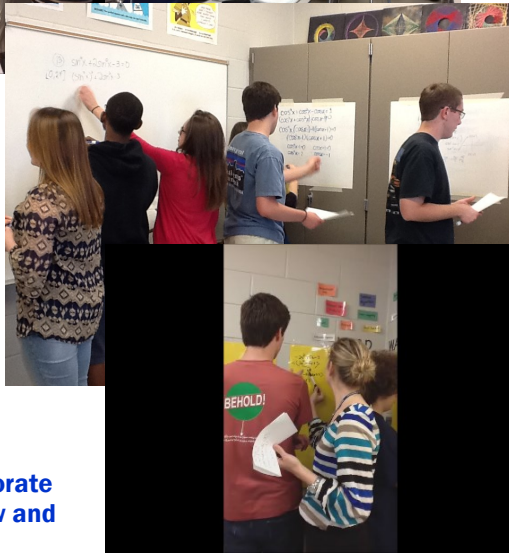


How is data being used to improve instruction and grow students?
—Students @ CJHS take STAR math test.
—Teachers @ EJHS discuss STI math data.



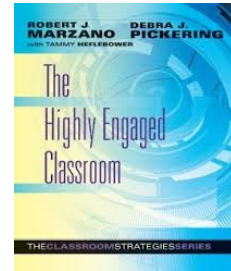
Smith, Massey, & Dunn tried “Math 360” within a week of seeing a video describing how it increased student engagement & achievement at one struggling school.

Way to incorporate something new and fresh!



“Student engagement does not occur spontaneously – rather it is the result of a teacher putting specific, effective strategies into place that are proven to foster engagement. This book takes the research on student engagement and translates that research into practical suggestions for ways that teachers can enhance student engagement. The book centers on four overarching questions students ask themselves to determine their involvement in classroom activities. Each of these questions addresses one aspect of engagement.”

- I. How do I feel?
- II. Am I interested?
- III. Is this important?
- IV. Can I do this?



The “L” Word

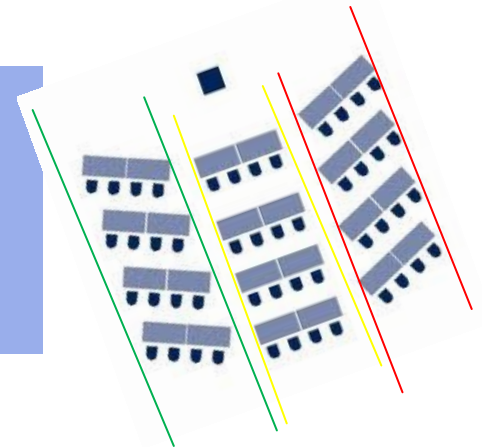
Article about “lazy” students?????

8 Tips for Updating Your Teaching to Something Messier

Cool Teacher Tips

Mrs. Watson uses zone seating in her classes!
Students in the red zone need extra one on one assistance.
Students in the yellow zone get prompts to help them catch up and stay on track.
Student in the green zone are independent learners and need little assistance.

SHHH! DON'T TELL THE STUDENTS WHAT ZONE THEY ARE IN!



10 Steps for Avoiding Teacher Burnout

1. **Have Fun Daily with Your Students:** Share jokes, brief stories, puzzles, brain teasers, etc.
2. **Take Care of Your Health:** The physical status of your body affects your emotional responses.....
3. **Learn Something New and Share It with Your Students:** Read an interesting book, watch Ted Talks, or go to luniversity & find something on brain research.
4. **Help Another Teacher:** Share your motivating experiences or mentor another teacher.
5. **Make Someone's Day:** Call a parent and tell them how good their student is.
6. **Lighten Up:** “Smile...Somebody might smile back at you!” Coach Chambers
7. **Be a Scientist:** Experiment with new strategies.
8. **Look for the Positive:** Half empty glasses are not nearly as exciting as half full ones.
9. **Redecorate:** Switch out bulletin boards, move desks, change the lighting or scents.
10. **Trust Students More:** Trust students by giving them more responsibility. Try project based learning and let them earn your trust.

To read more, check out this link.

<http://www.edutopia.org/blog/ten-tips-to-avoid-teacher-burnout-ben-johnson>