

# Superintendent's Corner

Everyone **A**chieving **G**oals and **L**earning **E**xpectations **S**uccessfully

## The Week in Review

I want to thank everyone who participated in the Star 360 training last Wednesday. You were patient with the minor technical difficulties that occurred, your questions were great, and your effort was tremendous. I particularly appreciate your patience with the late hour: I asked you for "above and beyond" and you responded enthusiastically. As I have mentioned in previous newsletters, as I walk around the District, I see teachers enthusiastic about teaching and kids fired up about learning. I see teachers who know where there kids are at as learners, intent on engaging all our kids and are



teaching for "deep" knowledge.

## The Week Ahead

The Star 360 testing that is happening this week will provide teachers with a great new source of information and analysis about where our K-8 students are at in math, reading and literacy. The data that is

generated by Star testing in math is electronically transferred into the Accelerated Math software tool. The next step will be for teachers to create levels or groups for their students that will students to get supplementary math practice and formative assessments to measure pro-

gress. The availability of the quantity and quality of data that Star 360 and Accelerated Math produces will greatly speed the development of our data teams and the impact they will have on teaching strategies and instruction.

## Highlights in Learning

The following is the second three of Marzano's Nine Essential Instructional Strategies. I plan to include the rest in the next two weekly editions.:

**4. Homework and Practice:** provides opportunities to extend learning outside the classroom, but should be assigned based on relevant grade level. All homework should have a purpose

and that purpose should be readily evident to the students. Additionally, feedback should

be given for all homework assignments.

- a. Establish a homework policy with a specific schedule and time parameters.
- b. Vary feedback methods to maximize its effectiveness.
- c. Focus practice and homework on difficult concepts.

**5. Nonlinguistic Representations:** has recently been proven to stimulate and increase brain activity.

- a. Incorporate words and images using symbols to represent relationships.
- b. Use physical models and physical movement to represent information.

**6. Cooperative Learning:** has been proven to have a positive impact on overall

learning. Note:

groups should be small enough to be effective and the strategy should be used in a systematic and consistent manner.

- a. Group students according to factors such as common interests or experiences.
- b. Vary group sizes and mixes.
- c. Focus on positive interdependence, social skills, face-to-face interaction, and individual and group accountability.

For the K-8 teachers who are starting out with Star 360 and Accelerated Math and for everyone else. If you have already been using software-based on online resources in your teaching, please do two things: email me information on what those resources are and how you use them, and think about how those resources could be used to augment the impact of Star and A.M. Star and A.M. are not the beginning and the end, they are core online resources which we can build around.



### NOTABLE QUOTE

“In learning you will teach, and in teaching you will learn.”

– [Phil Collins](#)