



February 2018

Noteworthy with Dr. Ellis

Happy February! I know this month signals the sharp slide into the end of the year as preparations begin for spring break, state testing, and the many end of year school activities. As you move into this fast-paced semester, I encourage you to reflect on where you were in the fall, where you are now, and where you want to be when the school year ends. Are students making progress? Are teachers growing professionally? Are administrators able to provide instructional leadership? As you reflect on these questions and your practices, I encourage you to plan forward with your staff. Where do you need to grow? How are you going to get there? What are some growth opportunities? A fantastic and FREE opportunity to grow is by participating in EngageOK. This will be the third year the Oklahoma State Department of Education has taken to the road to provide high-quality professional learning at multiple regional sites for teachers, counselors, administrators, and other school staff members. I encourage you to “Save the Date” and set some time aside to grow at one of the following sites:

A banner for EngageOK On the Road. The background is a dark purple gradient. On the left, the "engageok" logo is in white and yellow, with a stylized Oklahoma map icon below it. Below the logo is the text "ON THE ROAD" in white, all-caps, sans-serif font. To the right of the logo, there is a list of dates and locations: JULY 9 | ADA, JULY 10 | OWASSO, JULY 11 | BARTLESVILLE, JULY 12 | NORMAN NORTH, JULY 17 | DURANT, JULY 18 | DUNCAN, and JULY 19 | WOODWARD. At the bottom right, the text "REGISTRATION COMING SOON!" is written in white, all-caps, sans-serif font.

Reflect, plan, hang on and enjoy the ride into the end of the year.

Grant Talk

Project 515 funds that expired 12/31/2017 have been removed from GMS. Project 515 funds allocated in March 2017 are set to expire 12/31/2018. If you have questions or need further information regarding allocations, please contact Zada Sery at (405)521-4269 or zada.sery@sde.ok.gov. I am also available for over-the-phone/onsite technical assistance or GMS end-user training for new staff.

Leading Edge

For the LOVE of Reading

By Dawn Miller, OSDE School Support Specialist



When was the last time you read a really good book? If you are like many Americans, it has been awhile. Nearly 30% of all Americans report they did not read a single book in 2015 (Blakemore, 2016). Perhaps even more disheartening is reading for enjoyment drastically declines at age 8 and only half of all students report reading as being enjoyable (Korby, 2016). As educators, these statistics are staggering as many of us entered the profession due to a love of learning, and books certainly play an important role. How can we help foster a lifelong love of literature in our classrooms, homes, and communities? Here are several suggestions designed to help:

Be seen reading and share your reading experiences with students.

While this sounds simple, it is so powerful. Both my grandmother and mother were avid readers and always had a book with them in the car, at the doctor's office, in line at the grocery store, wherever they went. This made a lasting impression on me as a young learner. When we as teachers model reading for our students, we are encouraging them to do the same. Equally as important as reading are the conversations about the books we are reading. As a teacher, I purposely made sure my students could overhear discussions with colleagues about the latest EdWeek article I had read. It is important for students to know we are always reading for a variety of purposes: a novel for enjoyment, an article for a job, a research paper for grad school, or instructions to assemble an IKEA dresser.

Reading can be a social experience.

When you are engrossed in a suspenseful murder mystery and think you have finally solved the crime, you just have to tell someone! Oprah's Book Club, launched by Oprah Winfrey, provided a broad platform for monthly book discussions. Interaction through texts, whether it is a literature circle, a reading group, or a book club, increases comprehension and fun.

Text variety is the spice of life.

Texts come in a variety of genres and formats, and we should encourage students to explore and find what they love. Because I spend so much time on the road for work, I have recently fallen in love with audio books. While I still love to turn the pages of a good book, I always have my phone with me allowing access to thousands of books, newspapers, and magazines. Technology has made literature more accessible to our students through e-readers, audio books, and computer programs such as Myon as well as multiple reading apps.

As educators, we hope our students will learn to love reading, but we know there is no magic poster, prize nor contest that will work for all. However, engaging in authentic reading tasks, like those mentioned above, can begin to help our students re-imagine reading as an enjoyable pastime that should be part of a full, well-lived life.

Spotlight School: Clinton High School



Clinton High School Makerspace

By Vanessa Perez, Instructional Technology & Library Media Specialist, Clinton Public Schools

The makerspaces at each site in Clinton Public Schools began as a district initiative. I came in as a technology integration specialist after space was allocated in the library and some purchases (including a 3-D printer and vinyl cutter) had been made, but there was still a lot to do. The mission of the CHS makerspace is predicated on the 4 C's of 21st Century learning (communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking) and the ISTE standards for Students (<https://www.iste.org/standards/for-students>); it is to develop students into self-driven problem solvers. So if you ask what students learn, my response will be pretty broad because their background experiences vary greatly, as do their problems. From sanding to knitting to graphic design and laser cutting, students are using a combination of hand skills and technology to create solutions specific to their needs. The crux is for the students to learn to evaluate what tools or skills they need, who and when to ask for help and how to work with others to achieve their ends.



Last year, we got a CO2 laser engraving and cutting machine and a \$1500 grant for student entrepreneurship from our local school foundation. The two have been powerful for our program, especially in combination. The CO2 laser allows us to produce work in house rather than pay a third party. For example, we have done many awards and plaques, door nameplates, and even engraved Chrome books. In addition to teaching our students a skill, it saves the district money. We have done other jobs for students and community members and been able to roll money back into the makerspace for more supplies.

Through the "From Lemonade to Shark Tank" grant, students were able to propose businesses to local business leaders to earn "seed money." They earn money after paying off their initial investment. One business, NVLA Engraving works primarily with wood (key chains and other items by special order) and has already begun to make a profit.



For the future, we'd like to integrate more with the core subjects beyond creating manipulatives. For instance, we'd like to fabricate the custom parts when Physical Science students create wind turbines and build Hummingbird robots. We also have plans to collaborate with elementary students in a lesson where the first graders are customers for our high school designers.

Professional Development Opportunities

- **Special ED-**
 - 2/26/18 Tulsa School of Arts/Sciences Tulsa ? Christa Knight 1 hr. 10:00-11:00 am
 - March
 - 3/2/18 OU Zarro Center Tulsa Tech-Lemley Transition - TAGG Lori Chesnut all day 8:30 - 3:30
 - 3/3/18 OSDE State-wide Boot Camp Jacque Cullen all day 8:00 - 5:00 3 Tulsa - 2 sessions Tulsa-Edison HS Instructional Strategies Kristen Coleman all day 8:30 - 4
 - 3/3/18 Tulsa - 2 sessions Tulsa-Edison HS IEP/OK EdPlan Goal writing Shawna Keene all day 8:30 - 4
 - 3/3/18 Tulsa - 2 sessions Tulsa - Edison HS Secondary Transition Lori Chesnut all day 8:30 - 4
 - 3/5/18 Moore -Moore-Norman CTE Counselors Only! (504/Behavior) Lori Chesnut, Shawna Keene 2 hours

3/5/18 OKC - 2 sessions Metro Tech, Springlake EOY Data Erik Friend, Tristan Bratcher 1/2 day AM/PM
3/8/18 Sulphur OSD Autism Shawna Keene, Kristen Coleman 1 hr. 3:00-4:15 9 OU Zarro Center OKC-Metro Tech Springlake Transition - TAGG Lori Chesnut all day 8:30 - 3:30
3/9/18 Panama Panama Assessment /Accommodations Christie Stephenson 2 hours TBD
3/17/18 OSDE State-wide Boot Camp Jacque Cullen all day 8:00 - 5:00
3/26/18Tulsa - 2 sessions Tulsa Tech-Lemley EOY Data Erik Friend, Tristan Bratcher 9:00-4:00
3/27/18 McAlester-2 sessions Kiamichi Tech Center EOY Data Erik Friend, Tristan Bratcher 9:00-4:00
3/28/18 Lawton Great Plains Tech EOY Data Erik Friend, Tristan Bratcher AM only 9:00-4:00
3/29/18 Woodward High Plains Tech EOY Data Erik Friend, Tristan Bratcher AM only 9:00-4:00

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