

ML=
Multilingual
Learners

ML MONTHLY MEMO

JAN. 2023
VOL. 1 ISSUE 3

Welcome to 2023!

We hope you all had time to relax and recuperate during your winter break. Whether that means time with family, or time alone--all of us deserve the break. The December student sillies are over, and now we move into testing season. The WIDA Window is open--which means you will see your ML students being pulled out of class to participate in the yearly WIDA test. Encourage them to do their best, especially in secondary.

Teaching Strategies

Formative Assessments

- Frequent formative assessments help you identify language growth with your ML students.

Formative Assessment Ideas

- Journals or learning logs to show growth over time in a portfolio
- Academic conversations to explain new learning (after pre-teaching the academic vocabulary and including sentence stems for those that need it.)
- Cornell notes or graphic organizers to structure note-taking
- Student-teacher conference or small group discussions to recount learning
- Exit slips to show "I think..", "I wonder...", "I still want to know..."
- Fill-in-the-blank or "cloze" activity using sentence frames
- Label or sequence visuals like pictures, photos or realia (real life objects)

ELlevation Tips and Tricks

After pulling up an activity that you would like to try in your classroom, scroll down on the activity information page to find the "Student Support" section. This section will have a list of all your ML students and their levels. **It will then show you what modifications or accommodations you should make for a student at this level and tell you which students need these modifications/accomodations.**





WIDA Window January 5 - March 3

The WIDA Window is the time period in which schools administer the WIDA language test to all ML students who are a level 1-4.9.

Your students will periodically be pulled from class to take this test, so be understanding if they miss some class time. The test can take a while and be tiring, so be positive and understanding if they are feeling a little burned out or tired. If they test a 5 or above they never have to take it again, which can be motivating to many students--so encourage them to do their best!

WIDA Materials Check!

Check that the testing equipment you need for student WIDA testing is compatible and working!

- Check that the headphones have a microphone.
- Check that they work with the testing Chromebooks or desktops.
- If you need headphones, have the admin purchase them using your school's EARS budget.

Reflective Questions

- How do I know my student's learned today?
- What did they do to show their learning?
- What parts of language did I have them engaging with today (speaking, reading, writing, listening)?

Remember to share your student and ELD successes with your teacher specialist! We want to celebrate YOU!



ELD Lead Celebration

Mountain Shadows Elementary ELD Lead, Susan Allen, has put together a "Dream Team" of students excelling at learning English. They help other students around the school.

Every 15 days, their ML students are tested and placed in new Walk to Read groups.

For the next cycle, they are having their ML's in a group that focuses on reading, writing, speaking, and listening and they will be speaking into a computer and doing the WIDA practice test.



Need help? Contact your Language Teacher Specialist!

Culture Corner

"Culturally responsive teaching (CRT) is an educator's ability to recognize students' cultural displays of learning and meaning-making and respond positively and constructively with teaching moves that use cultural knowledge as a scaffold to connect what the student knows to new concepts and content in order to promote effective information processing. All the while, the educator understands the importance of being in a relationship and having a social-emotional connection with the student in order to create a safe space for learning."

- Hammond, Zaretta. "Climbing Out of the Gap." *Culturally responsive teaching and the brain: Promoting authentic engagement and rigor among culturally and linguistically diverse students*, Corwin, 2015, p. 15.

Important Dates



- Admin workshops for compliance (District Office, rm 129A)
 - Jan. 5th, 9 AM-12 PM
 - Jan. 12th (adjusted times)
 - 9 AM-11:30 AM
 - 12:30 PM-3 PM
- Compliance due- Share it with your LTS.
 - Friday, January 13, 2023
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
 - Jan. 16th
- Chinese New Year
 - Jan. 22nd