

APPR Newsletter

MCTA APPR Committee

Volume 1 - August 2013

"Standards Corner"

Standard IV: Learning Environment

Teachers work with all students to create a dynamic learning environment that supports achievement and growth. This can be achieved by...

- Creating a respectful, safe and supportive learning environment
- Providing opportunities to allow students to become an active participant in their own learning
- Establishing and reinforcing clear routines, procedures and objectives
- Creating purposeful collaborative grouping and partnerships to promote student cognitive engagement
- Organizing physical space, time, available technology, and support staff to accommodate student learning needs

(You will be observed on this standard)

21st Century Skills

RESOURCES

21st Century Skills lesson plans and activities

<http://www.thegateway.org/>

Cognitive Engagement and Participation Strategies

<http://gssdstudentengagement.wikispaces.com/Teaching+Strategies+for+Participation>

Constructivist strategies and higher order questioning

http://www.teacherstoolbox.co.uk/Constructivist_Teaching_Strategies.htm

Free educational publications

<http://www.smartbrief.com/news/education>

"The mission of the Middle Country Central School District at Centereach is to empower and inspire all students to apply the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to be creative problem solvers, to achieve personal success, and to contribute responsibly in a diverse and dynamic world."

Save the Dates!

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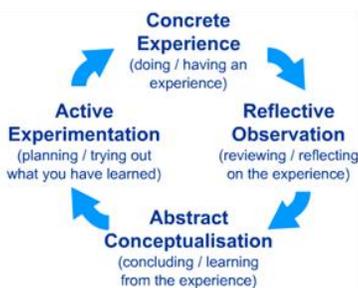
- A local measure meeting will take place on Thurs., Sept. 12th at DMS. Secondary teachers will meet at 2:45 pm and elementary teachers will meet at 4:00pm.
- An APPR panel discussion will take place on Friday September 20th and Monday September 23rd. There will be two sessions on both days (3pm and 4:15pm) at the union office. The information will be the same on both days so please attend one of the four sessions.



What are 21st century skills?

- **Ways of thinking.** Creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, decision-making and learning
- **Ways of working.** Communication and collaboration
- **Tools for working.** Information and communications technology (ICT) and information literacy
- **Skills for living in the world.** Citizenship, life and career, and personal and social responsibility

<http://www.p21.org/>



In constructivist learning theory, students construct their own understanding through meaningful, hands-on, experiential, collaborative, project-based, and task-based learning experiences. The teacher acts as a facilitator and using higher order questioning techniques, guides the activity to encourage students understanding.

A few strategies for cooperative learning include:

- Reciprocal Questioning: students work together to ask and answer questions
- Jigsaw Classroom: students become "experts" on group project and teach it to the others in their group

<http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/concept2class/constructivism/>



Cognitive Engagement

Cognitive engagement goes beyond the rote memorization skills and drills of the past. Cognitively engaged students are thinking more critically and analyzing information in a problem-based learning classroom. This way of learning should give the students real-life experience to interest them in the topic and empower them to take responsibility for their own learning experiences.

FAQ:

<http://www.cehd.umn.edu/reading/documents/FAQ/CognitiveEngagement.pdf>

Constructivism

APPR Emails: Please use the following emails for any specific questions you may have.

General questions	mctaappr@aol.com
Local measures	mctalm@aol.com
SLOs	mctaslo@aol.com
Observations	mctaobs@aol.com
Prof. Development	mctapd@aol.com

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Nancy Houghton – SMS	Liz Catz – SMS
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