



February Happenings

- Feb. 1 LMS Academy
- Feb. 2 PLCS District Advisory Team
- Feb. 3 West End Academy Make Up Day
- Feb. 4 Math Club
- Feb. 8 East End Academy
- Feb. 9 Writing Club

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Friday Focus

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The "P" of PIES is Positive Interdependence

There are two main components of positive interdependence, one corresponding to the word positive and the other corresponding to the word interdependence. First, students must realize that there is a reward if they work together. For example, getting the task done well will result in a good grade or a sticker or applause. Second, interdependence occurs when the partners simply must depend on each other to get the job done. So, the teacher structures the interdependence.

Positive interdependence drives cooperation. When our outcomes are linked, we hope for and support the success of others; when we cannot do a task alone, we work with others.

The "I" of PIES is Individual Accountability

What do we mean by individual accountability? Individu-

al accountability is present if three conditions are present: 1) a student performs on his/her own; 2) the performance or the product of the performance must be seen by someone else; and 3) the individual performance is required. To summarize these conditions we define individual accountability as "An individual, public performance is required."

The "E" of PIES is Equal Participation

As teachers we want fairly equal participation among our students. But when we have our students do group work, we do not take responsibility for structuring for the equality. We hope it happens, but do not make it happen. In a Timed Pair Share, the teacher first has students think about a topic. Then for a pre-announced time (often a minute), one student in each pair shares his/her thoughts while the partner just listens. Finally, the students reverse roles so the listener becomes the speaker and the speaker the listener, for the same amount of predetermined time. In a Kagan structure such as this, the teacher is able to create an

outcome where both partners must participate

The "S" of PIES is Simultaneous Interaction

Students learn better when a high percentage of them are actively engaged at once. Classroom time is saved because students are engaged and more can be accomplished in a faster time. Simultaneous interaction can be responses or a sharing of ideas in teams or pairs. Just consider how all of the engagement promoted by Kagan structures influences your students' motivation and improves your teacher ratings on TPGES!

Each principle of PIES has an important impact on student learning. If implemented correctly every student will feel confident to succeed. Positive Interdependence, Individual Accountability, Equal Participation, and Simultaneous Interaction help to unleash the full potential of cooperative learning.

