

The Round-Up

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Upcoming Events

January 2nd
Professional Learning Day—No school for students

January 11th
End of 2nd Quarter

January 12th
Teacher Workday—No School for students.

January 15th
Martin Luther King Jr. Day Federal Holiday—School closed

February 16
Professional Learning Day—No school for students

February 19th
Presidents' Day Federal Holiday—School closed
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Lunch Schedule Changes

Starting in 2024 we will adjust the lunch schedule for a few grade levels. The purpose of the shifts is to decrease the size of lunch passing groups and to increase time for transitions. The updated schedule is as follows:

- 10:45-11:15 Kindergarten
- 10:55-11:25 5th Grade
- 11:10-11:40 4th Grade
- 11:25-11:55 3rd Grade
- 11:40-12:10 2nd Grade
- 11:50-12:20 1st Grade

Dear School Community,

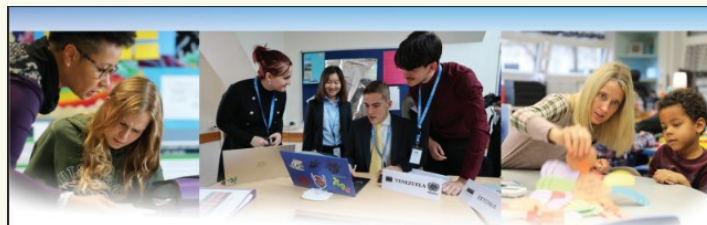
Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that 2024 has arrived. We look forward to finishing the second quarter/first semester strong.

Teachers engaged in professional learning yesterday which focused on the high quality instructional practice of assessment for learning. We consistently ask ourselves how we know if students understand and have learned what is needed according to our standards and our success criteria. Just as we are purposeful in planning our instruction, we should also use assessment with intentionality. The data assessments yield support teaching and learning in so many ways including providing us opportunities to give students actionable feedback, informing the formation of our flexible, small groups, and guiding our decision making and adjustments to our instruction so that we are responsive to the needs of our learners.

It's important to remember that just as the purpose of assessments can vary, so too can their appearance. Assessments can be informal and brief. They may be done online, via paper and pencil, or even based in performance tasks. Teachers often use checklists, rubrics, or other resources to support their use of assessment. Assessments help us to gather evidence about our learners, their strengths, and challenges.

Use of assessments and data informed decision making is an important aspect of ensuring we provide excellent instruction for every student, every day, everywhere. In the coming weeks we will share more about DoDEA's definition of excellent instruction and how, as life-long learners, we strive to reflect upon and improve our instructional practices to deliver on this promise.

See you in the hallways,
Sonja & Sara



Excellent Instruction

in DoDEA is defined as:

- ▶ Alignment of the intended goals and objectives, instructional components (opening, work session, and closing), materials and resources, and assessments to maximize learning for all students;
- ▶ Evidence of student learning through mastery of the adopted standards;
- ▶ Rigorous and relevant instructional tasks that are engaging and culturally appropriate for all students to include problem solving, reasoning, and reflection;
- ▶ Evidence of a continuous balanced assessment system that informs instructional decisions to meet the distinct learning needs of all students;
- ▶ Evidence of responsiveness to student learning through differentiation, intervention, and enrichment; and
- ▶ A learning environment that is student-centered and supportive in order for students of all abilities to develop, learn, and grow.