



Friday Focus

Greenup County Schools

Teammates Work Towards Success!

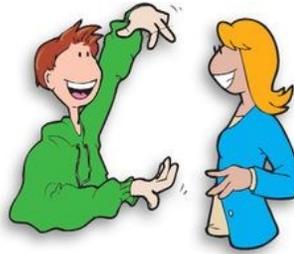
Today's youth often come to the classroom ill-prepared to be a good teammate. Cooperative learning empowers us to develop students' social skills that serve them in the classroom and beyond.

Embedding social skills within our curriculum is the first step to teaching students to be a good teammate. There are 5 Strategies for Fostering Social Skill Development.

1. **Cooperative Learning Structures** have social skills built into their steps. When we use structures that require taking turns, cooperating, listening, showing respect and patient waiting—we are reinforcing social skills.
2. **Roles & Gambits** represent a powerful approach

to developing social skills. Assigning roles keeps all student involved and accountable for the work. Gambits are what students "say" or do to fulfill their roles. We have to teach students the responsibility of roles and the importance of using Gambits to work with and praise their teams.

3. **Modeling** is a powerful way to communicate to students exactly what a social skill looks and sounds like. The teacher needs to role play the new skill for the class.



4. **Reinforcement** of the desired behavior will ensure that the behavior will be used more often. Genuine teacher praise is a strong and effective reinforcement for social skills development.

5. **Reflection & Planning** are two related processes. Looking back and planning ahead engages students in an ongoing self-improvement process. Reflection & planning will help student improve their social skills. Teams can also determine what the whole group needs to improve upon and plan a way to accomplish this task.

January 8, 2016
Volume 2, Issue 5

Upcoming Academy Dates:

Jan. 19th—Math at WMS
Jan. 27th—K-1 Academy

Extended Thought

[Essential 5 Kagan Structures](#)

[Gambits](#)

[Middle School Co-](#)

[Cooperative Learning Roles](#)

[Positive Reinforcements](#)

TESTING REMINDER/TIP OF THE WEEK

Administration Code

General encouraging remarks such as "Do your best," or "Stay on task" are acceptable. Evaluative remarks such as "You can do better" or "Please write more" are not acceptable.

Inclusion Of Special Populations

Reinforcement and behavior modifications : The strategies may include verbal, tangible or tactile reinforcements for on-task behavior, use of technology to focus attention or reduce stress, and testing in a separate location. A strategy may not influence the performance of another student.

GAP Closure:

Now that you have named and claimed students, have they been included in your goal.? Do they know the goals you have for them? The best use of goal setting is to include students in the process. They must own their goals to achieve and succeed.

