



Friday Focus



Greenup County Schools

Social Skills – Classroom & Beyond!

Many of today's youth come to our classrooms not prepared to be part of a team or a good teammate. Research reveals that even without any direct instruction of **social skills**, students in cooperative teams become more caring, helpful, and understanding of each other. Nevertheless, if we really wish to have our teams and classrooms run as efficiently as possible, we augment and accelerate this natural acquisition of social skills with powerful structures:

1.) Structures & Structuring - 11.3

Many structures have social skills built into



their steps. As teachers regularly use structures, students practice social skills in a natural context.

2.) Roles & Gambits—11.9

A cooperative learning role is an assigned action or task for a student to fulfill. Cooperative roles facilitate and enhance teamwork. Gambits are what students say or do to fulfill their roles. There are many examples of roles and gambits in the Kagan CL book.

3.) Modeling—11.17

Modeling is a powerful way to communicate to students exactly what a social skill looks and sounds like. Modeling

is brain-based learning. Role-plays, simulations, and skits are useful ways to model social skills.

4.) Reinforcement—11.18

A reinforcement is anything that strengthens the probability of a behavior. In the cooperative classroom, we strive to create a positive learning environment. We use positive reinforcement liberally and negative reinforcement and punishment sparingly.

5.) Reflection & Planning—11.20

Reflection and planning as a package are among the most powerful of all strategies for fostering social skills because it engages students in an ongoing self-improvement process. Students look back to see how well they have been using a social skill and then look forward, planning how they can improve.

Kagan, S., & Kagan, M. (n.d.). *Kagan Cooperative Learning*.

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Upcoming Academy Dates:

- 10/17 AM Angela McKell Middle
- 10/17 PM Angela Reading Grade 5
- 10/18 Angela HS ELA
- 10/19 ODW scoring Grades 8,10,11
- 10/20 ODW scoring Grades 5, 6
- 10/20 PVA Curriculum Mtg 2-5
- 10/21 Reading Project Grades 3,4
- 10/22 National ACT at HS
- 10/25 MS Math Vonda
- 10/27 HS Math Vonda



Extended Thought

[The Dozen Cooperative](#)

[GC Extension Office](#)

[Jesse Stewart Foundation](#)

[Shawnee State Park](#)



SHOUT OUTS!

Third and fourth grade students across the district are enjoyed the Jesse Stuart classic, "Old Ben". The books were donated by the Greenup County Farm Bureau. As a culminating activity, the Greenup County Extension Office, along with representatives from Shawnee State Park, presented assemblies at each elementary school. Students were treated to a short skit from the book to incorporate drama into schools. The skit starred our own GC thespians including the lead role "Shan" played by Eli Raby from GCHS. The students enjoyed visiting with a real "Old Ben" by either exploring the puppet provided by the Extension Office, or a live black snake brought by Jenny Richards, a naturalist from Shawnee Park State. Students and teachers alike, enjoyed tying our local history, culture, science, drama, and literature into a relative experience.

