



# Friday Focus

## Greenup County Schools

### Teamed up for SUCCESS!

When you peek into a cooperative learning classroom, one of the first things that you notice is the class arrangement. Students are seated in teams. Teams promote strong bonds between students, facilitate interaction over curriculum, and improve learning. To the extent possible, **students should be seated in teams of four.** Why? The larger your team, the fewer students are engaged.



In a class of 25, when one student is called on and responds, 1/25th of the class is actively participating. It would take 25 minutes for all students to have a chance to respond. As the group size is

made smaller, the percentage of engagement gets better. Groups of four allow 1/4 of the class to actively participate at the same time— simultaneous interaction (The “S” in PIES!).

So why do groups of four work better than pairs or groups of three? There are four reasons:

1. Teams of Four Allow Pair Work. Any time that a Rally (two people) structure is used, your engagement is maximized. Groups of three don't divide evenly.
2. Teams of Four Avoid the Odd Man Out. Uneven pairs make it easier for students opt out or be excluded.

3. Teams of Four Optimize Cognitive and Linguistic Mismatch. Piaget research shows that **students' learning is increased from different or varying cognitive levels.** Groups of four provide students at different levels working together.

4. Teams of Four Increase Variety. There are also several different ways to pair a group of four: shoulder partners, face partners, and corner partners. The flexible arrangements within a team of four create variety, which enhances interest.

Fan and Pick can be used as a Team Building structure. Each student on the team has a different roll as defined on the F & P mat. Student #1 holds the cards for student #2 to select and then read the question. Student #3 responds to the question. Student #4 check the answer, then praises or coaches. Then the mat is rotated 1/4 of a turn.

November 20, 2015  
Volume 2, Issue 3

Upcoming Dates:

11/23/15 MSU Jazz Band at

WMS @ 9:30

GCHS @ 11:30

MMS @ 1:30

12/3 2nd-3rd Math Academy

12/10 4th-5th Math Academy

### Extended Thought

#### Fan & Pick

#### Elementary Fan & Pick

### GAP Closure Strategies

**Name and Claim**– Each student has a name. Claim a student and find their strengths, hobbies, interests. Then help them set goals. Goal setting is the most effective way to achieve success both academically and socially. When you see data, know that each number has a face.



#### Administration Code

#### Good Faith Effort:

The use of motivational tools and goal setting are acceptable practices. Funding can not be provided from school funds, but can be donated. All good faith effort should be practiced throughout the school year and not just during Spring State Testing.