



Friday Focus

Greenup County Schools

How Do You Manage?

Using Kagan Cooperative Learning structures can dramatically improve classroom management issues. The cooperative learning structures provide the needed framework for learning while allowing students to be social. Traditional classrooms require students to be passive and isolated. In cooperative learning classrooms students are encouraged to interact, move, and create. But a **crucial** piece of cooperative learning is **management**. Students learn management skills to control noise level, answering questions, collecting team materials, communicating with the teacher via hand signals, and keeping on task after completing assignments.

Positive Attention & Recognition

One of the most positive and powerful tools we have is the use of positive attention.



Whatever we pay attention to, we will get more of. Recognition is another way to give positive attention. Recognition is publicly celebrating an individual, team, or the whole class's success. Giving directions for teams on how to do a complex project involves a totally different set of management skills. To address different learning styles, direction should be given **verbally**

and written. It is wise to talk through the directions as well as have them posted on the overhead, white board, or chart. Directions should also be in "**bite-sized chunks**." Do not give more instructions at a time than all teams can complete without asking for clarification. Use **trigger words** as cues for the students. For example, everyone start when I say "**Go**" allows the students to hear all the directions. "**Give Me Five**" is another signal that teachers can use for students so that they know to stop and focus on the teachers. For this structure, the teacher raises a hand with five fingers spread apart. The five fingers are to remind the students of the five rules:

1. Eyes on the speaker
2. Get quiet
3. Be still
4. Hands free—put things down
5. Listen



December 4, 2015
Volume 2, Issue 4

Upcoming Academy Dates:

12/10– 4th-5th Math Academy

1/5–TechSpert 101

1/13- 2nd 3rd Academy

1/20- 4th 5th Academy

1/27–K-1 Academy

Extended Thought

[Kagan Management Mats](#)

[Quiet Signal](#)

[Which Quiet Signal Strategy Do You Use?](#)

[Classroom Management](#)

TESTING REMINDER/TIP OF THE WEEK

Administration Code Inclusion of Populations:

Kentucky Department of Education is directing districts and schools -to immediately cease the practice of requiring that accommodations be student initiated. Instead districts should make available and provide all accommodations as determined by a student's placement team or Admissions and Release Committee (ARC) unless the student specifically refuses such accommodations. **In practical terms, instead of asking the question to implement student initiation, a teacher or test proctor will provide the accommodation automatically.**

GAP Strategies

Use Closure Activities

Routine Closure strategies such as journal writing, mind mapping, art summary, group processing ("Tell your partner two things you learned today.") enhance retention of learning.