



Friday Focus



Greenup County Schools

Teamed up for SUCCESS!

When you peak 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 the opportunity to work 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 -n- Pick can be used as a Team Building structure. Each student on the team has a different role 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.

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Upcoming Academy Dates:

9/19 ELA HS
9/20 4th Grade Language
9/21 Reading Grade 7/8
9/22 Reading PM 5th
9/22 Torch Prep HS
3:30-6:30
9/23 Reading Cadre 3/4
9/27 Vonda Math 2/3
9/29 Vonda Math MS

Extended Thought

Teambuilding Ideas

Cup Stacking Team Building

Fan - N - Pick

Cooperative Learning Teams & Structures

High School Engagement



SHOUT OUTS!

Project Lead the Way is engaging students! This STEM program is currently in full gear at both Wurtland Middle School and McKell Middle School. Greenup County teacher, Miruka Williams is leading students through the Design and Modeling Process utilizing technology and everyday household items to solve real world problems. This authentic assessment approach is a hit with the students. Miruka attended a weeklong training in Lexington this year just on the methodology and curriculum of the class. A big shout out to Miruka and her students for taking on a new method of teaching and learning. You can learn more about this program from the article about Greenup students in the [Ashland Daily Independent](#). Grants are available if your school would be interested in learning more about the STEM initiative.

