



# Peer Assistance and Review Newsletter

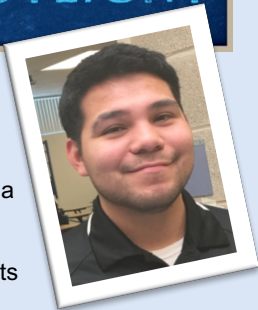
April 2017

SUPPORTING TEACHERS IN THE CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3



As a first-year English teacher at Sunrise Mountain, Alberto Loaiza has already discovered a very important teacher litmus test: don't assign students something that you wouldn't want to do yourself. Alberto's mother was a teacher in Mexico and taught him that there was nothing more valuable than education.



In the classroom, Mr. Loaiza finds fulfillment guiding his students towards improvement with the goal of graduation. Along the way, his students have taught him to be a better person. Mr. Loaiza describes the start of teaching as "the hardest six months of [his] life" and worried that he would run out of drive as the year progressed. However, exactly the opposite has happened. Mr. Loaiza is motivated to continue to teach, never stops learning, and always looks for areas to improve in his craft. Mr. Loaiza says, "I believe that students everywhere deserve a good teacher, and I continuously push myself to be one."

## NEPF Teacher Instructional Standards: Standard 2 in Your Classroom

After taking the time to explore students' initial understanding of content concepts in Standard 1, an effective teacher will shift their focus to creating tasks that have high cognitive demand for their students. The goal of NEPF Standard 2 is to create situations in which all students learn while employing a high level of cognitive demand. These situations are not stumbled upon by chance. They are intentional and require purposeful planning.

Teachers need to become skilled at crafting purposeful tasks that engage students in important subject matter content and processes, encourage progressively complex and integrated understandings, and lead to the acquisition of increasingly sophisticated skills.

Professional learning communities offer a unique opportunity for teachers to brainstorm new tasks and build up old tasks that may have been lacking in rigor.

Some strategies for incorporating Standard 2 into your lesson could be:

- Allow for explaining, justifying and interpreting
- Offer differentiated learning tasks
- Create activities where the depth of knowledge progressively increases
- Model and demonstrate the expectation that all children can learn at high levels



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## Depth of Knowledge Wheel



Utilizing varying degrees of depth of knowledge (DOK) throughout your lesson is a way of scaffolding the thinking, and in turn the learning, to engage students in a higher cognitive level of thinking and application.

By planning with the four levels of DOK, the theory is that you will create highly engaging lessons that will tap into students' highest levels of cognitive thinking.

## What Schools Does PAR Currently Serve?

### Elementary Schools

H.P. Fitzgerald  
 Doris Hancock  
 Liliam Lujan Hickey  
 Matt Kelly  
 Mary and Zel Lowman  
 J.E. Manch  
 Mountain View  
 Dean Petersen  
 Richard Priest  
 Dr. C. Owen Roundy  
 Sunrise Acres  
 Vegas Verdes  
 Elizabeth Wilhelm  
 Gwendolyn Woolley  
 Elaine Wynn

### Middle Schools

Dr. William Bailey  
 Mike O'Callaghan

### High Schools

Canyon Springs  
 Chaparral  
 Cheyenne  
 Cimarron-Memorial  
 Desert Pines  
 Mojave  
 Sunrise Mountain  
 Western

# MEET THE TEAM

From a young age, Anna realized the positive effects that a patient, positive, and encouraging teacher could have on a student from her own experiences as a reluctant learner. She entered the education field in Idaho, hoping to create lifelong learners in kindergarten and later moved to Las Vegas to work her magic in third grade.



As a first-year teacher at Fay Herron Elementary School, Anna experienced the culture shock that many implanted teachers experience. It motivated her to create a mentoring program at her school the following year. After finding her niche, Anna became a teacher-librarian and obtained her National Board Certification.

As a consulting teacher, Anna knows that everyone needs their "person," and she tries her best to be that for the new teachers she works with. Her advice to any teacher is trifold: be receptive to feedback, reflect on your practice, and surround yourself with positive people.

### Upcoming Dates

April 18<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm-8:00pm: Community Meet-Up at the Las Vegas Natural History Museum

April 22<sup>nd</sup> 5:00pm-8:00pm: New Teacher Symposium at Northwest Career and Technical Academy

May 16<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm-8:00pm: Educational Meet-Up at Advanced Technologies Academy

Remember that you can register for any Employee Onboarding & Development upcoming events on Pathlore using the keyword "onboarding." There will be another SB511 submission in June.