Welcome back to a new school year! The beginning of the year is an exciting time where both staff and students have feelings of great anticipation of what’s to come. This year there is even more expectancy as students return from an extended time away from the important relationships of their friends, teachers, and support personnel at their school. While classrooms may look a bit different this year, there is nothing better than active learning where students are asking content-related questions, reading critically, and engaging with new concepts. At FDLRS, we are here to help you engage learners and have your best year yet! We provide instructional coaching, professional development, and technology support. We encourage you to participate in one of the many courses we offer and to reach out to us throughout the year. We can be reached at 863-531-0444 or visit our website at www.heartlanded.org/fdlrs/ to stay informed of the many opportunities we offer.
Setting goals, asking for help, and showing empathy. What do all three of these skills have in common? They’re all examples of social-emotional skills that help students grow and succeed both in and out of the classroom. But what if practicing empathy was the first step to designing all education? I know what you’re thinking, but rest assured that a compassionate classroom environment where empathy is at its heart is not an environment that lacks academic rigor. On the contrary, in this environment students are understood to be complex people. There is a sense of belonging and students are challenged to be the best version of themselves. In the book, “Hacking School Culture: Designing Compassionate Classrooms”, co-authors Stockman and Gray guide us on a journey of 10 connected themes needed to create and sustain compassionate classrooms that are motivational and educational for each student. Moreover, each theme provides a comprehensive description and alignment with positive student development, strategies based on evidence, and immediate and long-term actions and strategies to overcome challenges. Join FDLRS Heartland as we begin our 10-week 100% Online Book Study journey towards understanding protocols that inspire strengths-focused teaching and learning, tools for starting hard conversations, experiential learning models that improve school culture, approaches that encourage activism while enabling students to resolve conflicts peacefully, and strategies that empower student-centered decision-making. The study will run from 09/20/20 to 11/30/20. Registration Deadline: 09/11/20.
Very soon excited voices will echo through the halls and laughter will abound as students reunite in the long-awaited setting of the classroom. As students return amidst the COVID-19 crisis parents and teachers alike may find themselves at a loss of how to reassure children and not make them more worried than they already are. Trusted adults, such as students' parents, teachers, and school staff play an important role in helping children make sense of what they hear and how they feel. When talking with children remember to stay calm. They will react to both what you say and the way you say it. Welcome their questions and don't avoid questions you can't answer. Provide information that is truthful and age-appropriate, using words and concepts they understand. It is important not to volunteer too much information, as this can be overwhelming.

Let them know it is okay to be worried, but reassure them they are safe by reminding them of the safety precautions being taken. Take your cues from the child and keep talking! Let them know the lines of communication are always open.

"Learning is a never-ending process."

Educational technology, state guidelines, and curriculum standards are constantly changing. Keep up with the trends and best practices in the field of education by participating in FDLRS well-designed professional development. Here are our upcoming events planned for K-12 teachers.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 10</td>
<td>Exploring Structured Literacy</td>
<td>Meets the 40 in-service hours for the certification requirement established in Rule GA-4.0051, F.A.C. Renewal and Reinstatement of a Professional Certificate.</td>
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<td>Highlands - Register in ERO #20211143006</td>
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<td>All others email: <a href="mailto:sonjabennett@heartlanded.org">sonjabennett@heartlanded.org</a></td>
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<td>Sept. 14</td>
<td>4-Part Online Series on Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, Dysgraphia, &amp; Anxiety</td>
<td>Presented in collaboration with Educalc &amp; Ms. Honora Wall</td>
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<td>Highlands - Register in ERO #20210048010</td>
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<td>Sept. 20</td>
<td>Hacking School Culture Book Study</td>
<td>Highlands ERO #20211140001</td>
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<td>All Others Link: <a href="http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/xm5PJ39">www.surveymonkey.com/r/xm5PJ39</a></td>
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As expected, many districts and schools are moving to a variety of models of blended and hybrid instruction. As you make the shift it is important to understand that you are not simply converting your instruction to online, but rather transforming your lesson for online learning. While online teaching should look different than face-to-face, it will still have some underlying familiarity with traditional teaching. There will be times when your online lesson does not go as expected and will fall short, just like the lesson in your traditional classroom. Show yourself some grace, just as you show your students grace as they learn new things.

Develop an online community with your students. Set expectations, hold students accountable, create shared goals, and keep it student-centered. Remember, they are struggling as much as you are with the transition. But just like in a traditional class, they will appreciate knowing the boundaries and feeling a part of something special.

You don’t have to be the expert in everything technology, you just need to find resources that can help. Join a collaborative Facebook group like Teaching with NEONS, watch short instructional videos on YouTube and Simple K12.com, or collaborate with other teachers in your district. Now more than ever, collaboration, sharing ideas, and supporting one another is vitally important to our success in education.

"Never stop learning, because life never stops teaching."

Investing in yourself as an educator is the best way to ensure both career growth and academic growth for your students. Even though it can take up precious time, professional development can help you be more prepared and ready to tackle professional challenges. Join us every week for Webinar Wednesday where we bring you experts from AccuTrain on relevant and timely topics to help you grow!

August 26
Positive Behavior Supports for Students Who Are Wired Differently

September 02
Building a Responsibility-Centered School Discipline Culture

September 09
Strategies to improve Working Memories in the Classroom

September 16
Seven Liability Landmines Every Educator Should Avoid

September 23
25 TECH Tools Teachers Can Use To Enhance Engagement

September 30
ACEs Informed Schools-Take-Aways from Classroom Case Studies

October 07
Measuring Social Emotional Learning - Best Practices to Analyze Mastery of Soft Skills

October 14
Mean Girls - Behind the Screen - Recognizing Social Anxiety/Depression

October 21
Anxiety in the Classroom - How Educators Can Support Students with Anxiety Disorders

October 28
Lost Boys - 8 Proven Techniques to Engage Boys in Your Classroom
Many people assume that gifted students can get by with little or no support from their teacher. Unfortunately, that is simply not true. Like any student, the individual academic needs of gifted learners must be taken into consideration. To enhance learning provide frequent assessments, differentiate learning opportunities, and grant gifted students a more robust learning experience as opposed to simply giving them more of the same. Teachers can avoid adding one more thing to their plate by being strategic when initially making lesson plans and planning activities with different tiers of difficulties at the onset. Providing work at the entry, advanced, and extension level and at varying Depth of Knowledge gives all learners multiple ways to master content.

When teaching gifted and advanced students it is important to build a sense of community through daily class meetings and quick team-building activities. Using learning contracts allows gifted and advanced students to take charge of their learning and explore their own interests. Gifted students can be complex learners with different abilities, interests, and expectations. To learn more about the gifted learner register for one of the professional development opportunities targeted at gifted and advanced teachers.

Gifted Training

August 18th  The Gifted Learner

7-week series hosted by the President of the Florida Association of Gifted Tuesdays from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Highlands register in ERO # 20211146002.

All other districts register by clicking the following link: www.surveymonkey.com/r/79FPWFB

Gifted Endorsement Courses:

October 5th  Guidance and Counseling for the Gifted Student

Begins October 5th and ends December 11th.

February 5th  Theory and Development of Creativity of the Gifted

Begins February 5th, 2021 and ends April 30, 2021.

Contact Stephanie Moreo at stephanie.moreo@heartlanded.org to register

Visit us on the web http://www.heartlanded.org/fdlrs/
"Parenting is a journey."

Parenting has always been a daunting task. But now more than ever the challenges can be overwhelming. Juggling responsibilities between home and work can leave parents exhausted with little time for family bonding. Adding changing societal values, greater access to technology, and new health risks that have changed the way we do school can leave parents feeling unprepared to deal with the trials they now face. FDLRS is providing webinars to help. Join us for one or more sessions to assist you in your journey.

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<tr>
<td>August 21</td>
<td>Keeping Your Kids Safe on the Web</td>
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<td>[Click here to register]</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 28</td>
<td>Creating Germ Busters</td>
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<td></td>
<td>[Contact <a href="mailto:rebecca.cox@heartlanded.org">rebecca.cox@heartlanded.org</a> to register]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 18th</td>
<td>Understanding ESE: An Overview</td>
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<td>[Click here to register]</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 16</td>
<td>Accommodations</td>
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Our facilitators can provide information about effective inclusive practices, family-school collaboration and communication, opportunities for networking with other families, and ways to access local resources and support.