



Cooperative Learning Day 1

MEMORANDUM TO: Teachers
FROM: Montrose Administrative Staff
REGARDING: Upcoming Cooperative Learning Training
DATE: January 21, 2019

As you are all well aware, we have a professional development experience approaching on January 21, 2019, ***Kagan Cooperative Learning: It's All About Engagement***. As a precursor to that training, we would like to take just a few moments to provide a brief rationale for the training, offer a summary of topics that will be explored, and share our plans for follow-up support.

First, we are excited that we have scheduled a training that focuses on student engagement. Staff surveys have indicated this is an area for which you could use training. This training will provide us with additional tools to meet our current school improvement goals. We are working very hard to ensure success for all of our students. This training should not be regarded as another "add-on" to what we are doing; rather, we will be learning strategies that will enable us to continue what we are doing with even greater effectiveness.

Second, the focal point of our thinking will be on differentiating between **group work** and **cooperative learning**. Knowing the difference is critical if we are going to engage all children in learning and impact student achievement. There is no research to support group work; we have decades of empirical studies which support cooperative learning. By the end of this workshop you will have a clear understanding of how these two activities differ. In addition, you will be taught how to form **heterogeneous teams** in your classroom. You will also be introduced to key concepts in each of the following areas: **brain research, relationship building, and classroom management**.

To further prepare you for the training, Kagan has included an article for you to read and some statements from other teachers who have attended this training. We would encourage you to read through both of these documents prior to attending the workshop.

1. ["The Instructional Revolution"](#)
2. [Success Stories and Quote](#)

The schedule and agenda for the workshop is attached to the email containing this letter. We look forward to visiting your classrooms to see the results of the classbuilding and teambuilding as well as classroom management tips and content driven structures you glean from this professional development. You will leave on January 21st with activities you can do the following day in your classroom to engage students in your content and management tools to better differentiate through grouping strategies. We will provide continue support through staff meetings and specific coaching as needed.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us. We are excited for our dynamic staff to participate in this learning and further expand your toolbox of engagement strategies for cooperative learning.