



Success

Timely tips to improve student achievement

August 2021

Mastery focus helps students learn at their own pace

School officials in Cleveland and Columbus are focusing on mastery in summer school and the upcoming school year as a way to personalize learning and help bridge achievement gaps stemming from the pandemic. The approach assumes that all students are at a different place in their learning and offers them the support to progress at the pace that is best for them. For more, go to <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU721>.

Akron City's partnerships with businesses are key to district's career programs

Partnering with local businesses is a key component of **Akron City's** College & Career Academies of Akron. Former Superintendent Dr. **David W. James** says these partnerships help address companies' employment needs and offers students career-sampling opportunities. The district's partnerships with more than 300 large and small businesses provide real-world details that teachers can tie into lessons and give students insight into businesses' expectations. For more, go to <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU722>.

Augmented reality to support learning

Augmented reality can help engage students in lessons, writes **Christine Danhoff**, K-12 technology integration specialist at **Genoa Area Local** (Ottawa). Danhoff shares seven tools, including Merge Cube, which allows students to virtually handle artifacts and objects, and Quiver Masks, which helps students to take on the persona of characters in a story. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU723>.

Hamilton City introduces community to new teachers

Hamilton City recently took dozens of first-year teachers and those new to the district on a bus tour of the city, which has 10,000 students. Superintendent **Mike Holbrook**, says the purpose of the Hamilton 101 orientation is to help the teachers achieve success by learning about the community and the neighborhoods where their students live. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU724>.

U.S. schools seek to recover enrollment losses in fall

U.S. schools that experienced enrollment declines during the coronavirus pandemic are looking to recover students in the fall by reaching out to families, conducting school tours and other efforts. Without recovering lost enrollment, districts face a loss of funding. According to an analysis of data, every racial and ethnic group saw enrollment declines, with white students showing the steepest decline. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU725>.

Student achievement in-depth

Each month, **Success** brings you a research brief or in-depth article to discuss with board members and administrators.

District's tech tip videos keep parents in the loop

One of the greatest benefits of family engagement is caregivers and teachers partnering with each other to increase their children's academic success. Parent-oriented technology tours and bite-sized technology tips via videoconferencing, Facebook and Twitter helped parents feel more connected to their students' schools. This article discusses how **Mariel Milano**, director of digital curriculum for Florida's **Orange County Public Schools**, made bite-sized technology lessons available for caregivers where and when they needed them.

Milano observed the increase in parent involvement early in the remote and hybrid education experience last year. Parents became "co-pilots" in their children's education, according to Milano.

Families of K-12 students had a front-row seat to learning for the first time. With many students in a hybrid or fully remote environment and more schoolwork being completed at home, parents were able to take part in their children's education in a way they couldn't previously.

As a result, 71% of parents had a greater appreciation for their children's teachers following the onset of the pandemic last year, according to a Learning Heroes report by Edge Research. The report captured responses from more than 3,600 parents and guardians of K-12 children and also found that only 33% of parents felt they had regular access to their children's teachers.

When Milano noticed the disconnect between parents and educators in her own district, she worked to set up systems that would support families. She worked to meet parents' needs in a forum and on a schedule that worked for them, even when that wasn't easy or convenient for her.

"When it comes to understanding the right way to support parents with technology, the key is to be where they are, not where you want to be," Milano said. "I have to be there when they need me, not when I want to be needed."

To read the full article about the mini technology lessons and for the link to the Learning Heroes report, please visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU726>.

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