

AH-HA'S

- 1 minute per MC question is the average
- Educated guesses, if need to guess
- WorkKeys puts easiest questions first
- Norm-referenced: Students need to understand difference from MEAP (criterion referenced)
- Need to do well on all components. Every day is important
- Ability to understand the question
- Reading directions – VIP!
- Reading selections are often dry – little intrinsic interest
- Difficulty of reading level
- Core Democratic Values are alive.... Staff needs to know these – need to work with other subject teachers in integrated
- Timed test **

SURPRISES

- WorkKeys (passages) writing samples – some are purposefully “poorly written” as in real life
- Math formulas and conversions will be provided
- Fine line between some of the answers (testing practice needed)
- Vocabulary – what is being asked? (influence...)
- More rigor in social studies

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES / IMPLICATIONS

Need to separate meaning vs. test taking

Testing strategies

- Read questions before passage, perhaps
- Guess only if you can eliminate a couple wrong answers
- Used timed warm-ups
- Acquaint students with testing formats
- Use cross-curriculum vocabulary
- Teach strategic reading
- Use more informational text
- Practice “tough texts” together with strategic ideas/approaches
- Mirror the kind of thinking in your classroom discussions (sponge activities)
- Intentionally point out vocabulary that may be used – link it to what they know future test language.
- Have student write similar assessments
- Use practice/sample assessments – step-by-step right answer/why...
- Staff takes test samples also
- Share resources, prompts...

NEXT STEPS



- Let school boards know
- Inform parents (sample items)
- Take a deep breath... ahhhh...let it sink in before beginning work (what are our goals?)
- Share thinking, good instruction, balanced assessment with other faculty members
- Realign curriculum with HSCE's
- Common assessments collaborative planning
- Explore/PLAN Science/Math
- MSELA – March share designs around state and in MSTA journal