



El Monte Middle School

Home of the Mighty LOBOS!

BRINGING OUT THE BEST

IN THIS ISSUE

Principal's Note

The rain didn't stop our Lobo family from getting back in the groove of the GIFT! As the semester winds down, data is the center of our conversations. We met as a staff to reiterate the importance of implementing reading comprehension strategies, revisit our goals, reflect on our instructional rounds, and hone in on our instructional focus. Thank you teachers for giving thought to the department specific learning logs that will be used weekly for formative assessments to drive future instruction. We look forward to easily identifying the needs of every El Monte student. Together, we will Be The Change and meet the needs of every student! Looking forward to our data chats on December 19th!

-Marlena

El Monte Intro to Ag Students and the Alpha Men's Alliance attended the FFA Discovery Leadership conference on Thursday, November 29. Students from all over the San Joaquin Region attended the conference held at the World Ag Expo Center in Tulare. Our students had the chance to participate in activities that taught them communication, team building, problem solving and leadership skills. Our students stepped out of their comfort zone and worked productively within mixed groups of students from many other middle schools.



The students practiced many important life skills and interacted very well with the high school FFA students who facilitated the conference. All students participating received beautiful certificates upon completion.

-Mrs. Pennebaker

#weareLOBOS!



University of California—Merced is a public institution that was founded in 2005. It has a total undergraduate enrollment of 7,375, its setting is rural, and the campus size is 815 acres. It utilizes a semester-based academic calendar. University of California—Merced's ranking in the 2019 edition of Best Colleges is National Universities, 136. Its in-state tuition and fees are \$13,627 (2018-19); out-of-state tuition and fees are \$41,641 (2018-19).



The student-faculty ratio at University of California--Merced is 20:1, and the school has 25.1 percent of its classes with fewer than 20 students. The most popular majors at University of California--Merced include: Biological and Biomedical Sciences; Engineering; Psychology;

Social Sciences; and Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services. The average freshman retention rate, an indicator of student satisfaction, is 84 percent.

-Mario

Coaches' Collective

Formative Assessment

At our staff meeting, Mrs. Celaya spoke to teachers about the upcoming implementation of department **Learning Logs**. These tools will be used after every assessment to guide teacher reflection on student achievement and to drive future instruction.

“Student learning has been enhanced when I use formative assessment, due to being able to catch students' point of confusion in order to re-address points of confusion in connected lessons.” -Scott Snodgrass

In class, “doing error analysis on the formative assessment and having the students discuss the questions and their responses definitely

helps them for future tests.” In PLCs, “taking the time to review errors and analyze them in a collaborative way has been beneficial.” -Lupe Barton

“During a coaching cycle, I was able to gather data regarding an extremely important standard students were needing to master. After gathering my pre-assessment data, I was able to design a lesson that really focused on supporting the students who were unable to master the standard. I also was able to support my mastery students by designing an extension activity that allowed them to further research the topic for the standard being taught. After giving the post-assessment, I was pleased to see that many of my students were able to master the standard.” -Michelle Cruz

-Jaelyn

To successfully take action on the assessment data that we collect and reflect upon, a formative assessment system is required. An effective **formative assessment system** has three components:

- **Feed-Up:** Students understand the purpose of the assignment, task, or lesson, and how they will be assessed.
Where am I going?
- **Feedback:** Students are provided with information about their successes and needs.
How am I doing?
- **Feed-Forward:** Student learning is based on performance data.
Where am I going next?

All three are required if students are to learn at high levels.

~from *The Formative Assessment Action Plan* (Nancy Frey, Douglas Fisher)