

# SEBASTIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES POLICY



### INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICE PRINCIPLES

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In order to provide an environment where all students perform up to their potential and are prepared for the future, we will make sure that students:

- Are actively involved in their own learning.
- Use writing as a way to learn.
- Have some ownership over what is being learned.
- Communicate with peers about what they are learning.
- Use technology in meaningful ways.
- Study subjects in a way that shows them applications to real life.
- Are able to make connections among content areas.
- Are instructed in ways that help all students learn the Core Academic Standards, which Kentucky has determined are essential for all students to know and be able to do.

### INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

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To help ensure our instructional practice principles are implemented:

**Each week, students will have the opportunity to:**

- Receive appropriate and meaningful feedback.
- Work with other students in pairs, small groups, or teams.
- Do hands-on activities.
- Use technology as a tool for learning.
- Read books or materials on their own or with a partner.
- Listen to an adult read aloud.
- Discuss different ways to solve problems.

**Each month, students will have the opportunity to:**

- Read and write in all content areas.
- Do open-response and on-demand items.
- Communicate with pictures, charts, graphs, or a web.
- Use a scoring guide.
- Use resources other than a textbook or worksheet.
- Use manipulatives or equipment.
- Be exposed to real-life examples that relate to content areas.
- Discuss or read about current events, issues, or topics.
- Watch the teacher do a demonstration.
- Perform or create in an area of the arts and humanities.

**Each grading period, students will have the opportunity to:**

- Participate in a one-on-one reading or writing conference with a teacher.
- Do projects and investigations.
- Participate in a peer reading or writing conference.
- Read novels, short stories, and poems.
- Read newspapers and magazines.
- Use technology for research.
- Do real-life activities or projects.
- Design or investigate projects based on their interests.
- Speak in front of a group.

**TEACHER ROLE**

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To ensure that the principles and guidelines above are implemented, every teacher shall:

1. Use a wide variety of student-centered, culturally responsive instructional strategies to address various learning styles.
2. Use activities where all students use higher-order thinking and problem-solving skills.
3. Assign tasks similar to those used for state assessments.
4. Provide opportunities for students to connect their learning to other topics and subjects and real-life experiences.

5. Use technology for appropriate and varied learning activities and to extend the classroom into the community and the world.
6. Use instructional resources that are developmentally appropriate, culturally diverse, and varied.
7. Follow the procedures outlined in our Homework Policy.
8. Provide students with opportunities to evaluate their performance and use the feedback to reflect on and improve classroom practice as needed.
9. Ensure integration of program review areas across the curriculum.

## **PRINCIPAL ROLE**

To ensure that these instructional practice principles and guidelines are implemented and teachers are able to fulfill their role, the principal will:

1. Make sure that these instructional practice principles and guidelines are taken into account in both the interview process and in the final selection of all teachers.
2. Encourage and support teachers in their role.
3. Encourage professional development that supports the implementation of this policy.
4. Ensure integration of program review areas throughout the school and across the curriculum.

When appropriate for Arts and Humanities — Teachers of the arts are provided professional development to improve their content knowledge and teaching skills specific to instruction in their arts discipline.

When appropriate for Practical Living/Career Studies — Practical living and career studies teachers have access to professional development that supports research based effective instructional strategies specific to their discipline.

## **POLICY EVALUATION**

We will evaluate the effectiveness of this policy through our School Improvement Planning Process.

Date Adopted: 9-17-12

Date Reviewed or Revised: 2-27-18\_\_ Council Chairperson's Initials \_WGN\_

Date Reviewed or Revised: \_\_\_\_\_ Council Chairperson's Initials \_\_\_\_\_

### **NOTES ON USING THIS POLICY**

**INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES:** These activities, strategies, and tasks are based on Best Practice and most are items included in the questionnaire to which students respond. These guidelines can be revised based on teacher input to fit your situation.



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