



McNair Elementary Advanced Academics

Dear McNair families,

Happy November! We are so thankful that many of you continue to reach out to our staff with questions on how you can nurture and support your children at home. Your continued involvement and support are a blessing and we are looking forward to the second quarter.

There are so many strategies that parents can use to help their children grow in critical and creative thinking, and problem-solving. The best thing you can do is to find what your child is interested in and guide him/her through exploration of his/her interests. This will allow them to build confidence and passion, which will transfer over into other topics. Research shows that parents can cultivate play, creativity, and risk-taking at home to allow children to reach their potential academically, socially, and emotionally.

One area of growth that families can encourage is the critical and creative strategy we call FOFE: Fluency, Originality, Flexibility, and Elaboration. Often our students have strong computational skills, or oral reading skills, but need support to develop their abilities as real-world problem solvers and communicators. FOFE asks students to think of ideas, and model that thinking in a variety of ways. Try some ideas from this newsletter!

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Important Dates

November: Level IV Questions and Answer Session with Ms. Stoermann

- Wednesday, November 4th, from 8:00-8:40 AM
- Thursday, November 12th, from 3:30-3:45 PM
- Wednesday, November 18th, from 8:00-8:40 AM

Join us using the BBCU Guest Link: <https://bit.ly/2GhUfwW>

December 1: Level IV AAP Parent Referrals Due via email only to cestoermann@fcps.edu. Please cc school principal.

March: Central Selection Committee Meets

April: Eligibility decisions will be mailed to homes

What is in a Level IV Screening portfolio?

Parent Level IV Screening requests are due via email on or before **December 1st, 2020** for families with children in 2nd -6th grade. Parents may submit the following documents:

1. [Level IV Parent Referral Form](#) (required)
2. [Parent Questionnaire](#) (highly encouraged)
3. Four pages of student work samples (optional- Saved as PDF/Word/JPG (PDF preferred))
4. Additional Test Results, such as private testing or testing from a prior school (optional- not common)

McNair Staff will prepare the following to be included in the screening file: Summary sheet, Progress Report Card (1 ½ years), Gifted Behaviors Rating Scale with Commentary (GBRS), NNAT2 results, and student work samples. **Note: Getting a high score on the NNAT does not mean that a student is automatically found eligible for Level IV services, and vice versa.**

When the digital portfolio is sent to the AAP central office, four to six FCPS employees who do not know your child will look at the contents and consider all pieces to decide eligibility or ineligibly status. Student portfolio elements are considered equally by committee members. An oversight committee also reviews the decisions to ensure that all children are correctly identified for eligibility or ineligibly.

Critical and Creative Thinking Board

Fluency-Originality-Flexibility-Elaboration

What is this Routine?

When students are able to come up with ideas (fluency), combine ideas in new ways or come up with unusual ideas (originality), then categorize and develop their ideas (flexibility and elaboration), they are more able to make inventive or creative connections between ideas. Students should become comfortable with generating lots of ideas without pre-judgment. The process of suspending judgment is important to brainstorming and maintaining an open mind. Fluency and flexibility open up the thinking of students to consider many possibilities, and originality and elaboration stretch the uniqueness of their thinking. This is a great strategy to use with your children to generate ideas for a family trip, a way to spend the weekend, the best pet for the family, creative solutions to problems that arise, and other situations that lend themselves to multiple ideas for consideration.

Source: FCPS Critical and Creative Thinking Website

FCPS Video Explanation

Web Link:

https://youtu.be/ZQONGwLeLR_Y

Or Use your Phone's Camera to scan here:



Fluency Activity Ideas

- How can you change this box into something different?
- If you could combine two of your favorite superheroes to create a new hero, which two would you pick? What would your superhero do to help the world?
- What is your idea to change the world? Draw a picture of your idea and tell why it will change the world

Helpful phrases to use when talking with kids:

Fluency- I make a list, of ALL my ideas, and I ask myself, "What else could there be?"

Flexibility- I think of an idea from another perspective and I ask myself, "How else could this be?"

Originality- I come up with an idea that is special to me, and it is not like anyone else's!

Elaboration- I add to my ideas, adding details and parts, and I ask myself, "What would happen if...?"

Questions to Support FOFE:

- Make a list of ___?
- What are some different ways to ___?
- What ideas from___ would improve___?
- What details would improve the idea(s)?
- What is an unusual or another way to ___?
- What could improve ___?
- What would happen if ___?

FLUENCY, ORIGINALITY, FLEXIBILITY, ELABORATION <small>The production of many ideas, the expression of new ideas, and the recombination of existing ideas</small>		
NAME: _____		
IDEA/PROBLEM:		
BRAINSTORM SOLUTION/IDEAS	IDEA 1 WITH MORE DETAIL	IDEA 2 WITH MORE DETAIL
Make as many as possible!		
Best refined solution (or combination of ideas)		
Self Reflection: My most interesting idea is: Because:		

Favorite Read Alouds

What do you do with an Idea? By Kobi Yamada

Not a Box by Antoinette Portis

Never Let a Unicorn Scribble! By Diane Alber