



# FALCON FRIDAY FOCUS

Friday, August 29, 2014

*Believe  
In  
Monroe  
County*

Hello MSCD Staff,

Dipsticks! No, I am not calling you one, but I do want to call your attention to them. Formative assessment, that is. Just like the oil in our car, the information in our student's brains need to be checked every few thousand miles. If we don't take the time to check, our engines can quit....and so can our students!

In this edition of the FFF, I want to give you as many resources as I can that helps you to better check student understanding.

Did you know that USING formative assessment results in your classroom can DOUBLE student learning? (That's backed by [250 empirical studies](#).) If formative assessment does not play a major role in your classroom instruction, then you are doing your kids and yourself a HUGE injustice. Remember....we only have them 170 days, why not double that impact?

The most important component of formative assessment? It is what you DO with the results! You can't just assess them, you have to actually USE the formative assessment results to alter your instruction to them in some way. That may be done by:

- ⇒ -going on to the next concept, because all of your students mastered the standard.
- ⇒ -working with a small group of students that didn't master the concept.
- ⇒ -setting up an intensive RTI plan for some of your students because they are not mastering several concepts.
- ⇒ -re-teaching the entire concept, because several of your students did not understand. Etc.

I urge you to evaluate your own formative assessment practices in your classroom. It could make all the difference.

Christie Biggerstaff, Instructional Supervisor



## Digital Formative Assessment Resources (hyperlinked)

**Lino** – A virtual corkboard of sticky notes so students can provide questions or comments on their learning. These can be used like exit tickets or during the course of a lesson.



**Poll Everywhere** – Teachers can create a feedback poll or ask questions. Students respond in various ways and teachers see the results in real-time. As Steven indicates, with open-ended questions you can capture data and spin up tag clouds to aggregate response.

**Socrative** – Engaging exercises and games that engage students using smartphones, laptops and tablets.

**AudioNote** – A combination of a voice recorder and notepad that captures both audio and notes for student collaboration.

**BubbleSheet** – An app that allows students to complete assignments and common assessments using an iPhone or iPad. Quizzes up to 10 questions are free.

## 53 Ways to Check for Understanding

An attachment is included in the email that you can print out and lists some great ideas! Two of my favorites-

1. **Twitter/Facebook/Instagram Post**—why not design their response to look like some of their popular social media sites? Kids would LOVE it!
2. **Teacher Tag**—students must respond to a question/prompt when tagged by their teacher or classmate. A fun “game” to play outside or in the gym while checking for understanding at the same time.



The goal of formative assessment is to *monitor student learning* to provide ongoing feedback that can be used by instructors to improve their teaching and by students to improve their learning