

Coronado Compass

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Dear Coronado Families,

January has come and gone, and our hope is that 2016 is off to a great start for each one of you! Have you stayed on track with your New Year's resolution? If not, we encourage you to stick with it, switch your goal, or if you haven't set one yet...try it out! At Coronado we are constantly setting goals with our students, monitoring those goals, and adjusting to ensure we are on the right track. Goals are set individually with students based on their needs. Perhaps their goal is to increase adjective use in writing, improve their fluency rate in reading, or complete a "mad minute" math fact quiz in under 60 seconds. No matter what the goal, it is important to keep at it! In Jeffco one of the goals we have recently been focusing on is to define our 2020 Vision and what competencies a graduate should have by the year 2020 and beyond. Over the remainder of this year's newsletters, I would like to describe each of those competencies in greater depth as we at Coronado are also working toward developing these characteristics in each of our young students!

The first competency is: **Content Mastery**. Proficiency and mastery of content can be most directly related to knowledge and skills acquired in reading, writing, math, science, social studies, physical education, art, and music. After all, reading, writing, and arithmetic are what school is all about, right? Believe it or not, it has become so much more as you will see over the next few newsletters while learning more about our core competencies. Various groups of stakeholders continue working together to define and describe each one. The team has determined that most important skills related **Content Mastery** are: *academic confidence, demonstration of a year or more of growth, application of content knowledge and conceptual understandings, and the ability to transfer content knowledge and conceptual understandings*. While each of these is left to individual interpretation, I will add some thoughts below.

Academic Confidence: students experience success by their own definition, persevere, and choose to challenge themselves to learn beyond the confines of the classroom. Academic confidence may come more swiftly in some areas, seemingly without effort, while hard work and fanatic discipline are required in others. A student who possesses academic confidence asks questions, takes risks and never stops seeking to understand.

Demonstration of a year or more of growth: Jeffco's Curriculum Alignment Project (CAP) lays out a prescribed learning progression for all content areas PreK through 12th grade. Aligned with the Colorado Academic Standards, it also determines levels of proficiency students should reach in order to demonstrate growth. Classroom assignments, benchmark assessments, and annual testing all help to determine a student's level of proficiency and growth. Each year of school completed should ideally result in at least 1 year of growth.

Application & transfer of content knowledge and conceptual understandings: these two skills go hand in hand. As students are learning specific skills they are given opportunities to apply and transfer their new knowledge in a variety of ways. This may be best described with a concrete

math example. Multiplication, simply defined, is repeated addition. Multiplication can be used in place of addition when numbers increase making problem solving more quick and efficient. Multiplying instead of adding over and over is one way of applying new knowledge. One step further is taking multiplication and applying it to division. As you know, it is nearly impossible to successfully solve a division problem without a strong grasp of multiplication. The ability to use multiplication within division is the transfer of one skill to another. This simplified understanding of application and transfer is only the beginning. Students make decisions each day using their acquired knowledge about which skill(s) to use at what times in order to successfully solve problems, and they don't just do this in math! Application and transfer of skills occurs in all content areas and continues on throughout life. Just think about the amount of problems you solve daily by applying your skills and transferring information from past experiences.

If you simply cannot wait to hear about the next competency in Jeffco's 2020 Vision, please feel free to watch this [video](#)!

Thank you for partnering with us to ensure your child has every opportunity to reach content mastery!

Take care of each other,
Amanda Pierorazio
Principal, Coronado Elementary

