

## ISSUE #5

Fillmore Jr/Sr  
High School  
March 2019



## THE FILLMORE FORUM

As we progress towards the end of winter, Fillmore CSD is preparing for Spring. Sports are in full swing, with students and coaches making the best of our current conditions to train and practice for the Spring season.

With less than four months left in the academic year, students and staff are preparing for graduation, college, and life beyond High School. Thank you students and staff for an incredible first 100 days of school!

## SCHEDULE

- March 21: B.O.E. Meeting (6:30 p.m)
- March 22: No School (Staff Dev. Day)
- March 29-30: H.S. Musical (7:00 p.m)
- April 2-4: NYS 3-8 ELA Assessment



## SECTION V D1 CHAMPIONS!

Securing the best season of Girls Basketball in Fillmore history, our Varsity Girls Basketball Team brought home the Section V title. Congratulations to our girls for all their tireless effort, dedication, and sports(wo)manship. Your athleticism is impressive; but that, combined with your positive attitudes, academic performance, and teamwork is what makes you truly remarkable.



## AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Fillmore Agriculture Issues Team met with *Lamb & Webster* this month to discuss the controversial issue of 'right to repair'.



# PEDAGOGY

## Corner

### Cooperative Learning: Engaging Students

*You catch the glance of your closest friend from across the room as the thud of the minute hand startles the otherwise silent classroom. You roll your eyes, smirking, and turn back to your work.*

How do we engage students, support synthesis of new information, and facilitate the natural tendencies of teenagers? One answer is cooperative learning, or the utilization of student groups to evaluate, analyze, and synthesize content. This edition, I want to show you several cooperative learning strategies from Dr. Kagan's *Kagan Cooperative Learning* (2015). These strategies have been found to engage students, decrease incidents of misbehavior, and boost academic achievement.

#### Strategies for Differentiation:

1. *Round Robin*: Teacher poses a problem to which there are multiple possible responses or solutions. Students take turns providing responses or solutions in group.
2. *Rally Table*: Teacher provides a task to which there are multiple responses. Students take turns passing a paper and pencil, each writing one answer or making a contribution.
3. *Rally Coach*: Partners take turns, one solving a problem while the other coaches. Partner A solves the first problem. Partner B solves the next problem as Partner A watches and listens, checking, and coaching if necessary. Students repeat process until problem sets are completed.



#### BENEFITS

- ✓ Increased student engagement
- ✓ Utilizes students' desire to engage with peers
- ✓ Promotes analysis and synthesis of new information
- ✓ Enables **differentiation for all students**

Kagan, S., & Kagan, M. (2015). *Kagan cooperative learning*. San Clemente, CA: Kagan Publishing.

# Cooperative Learning: Improving Instruction Through Collaboration

## Cooperative Learning, Cont.

### Strategies for Engagement:

1. *Stand-Up, Hand-Up, Pair-Up*: Teacher says, “stand up, hand up, pair up... go!”. Students stand up and keep one hand high in the air until they find the closest partner who’s not a teammate. Students do a high five and put their hands down. Teacher asks a question and provides think time. Partners interact using Round Robin strategy.

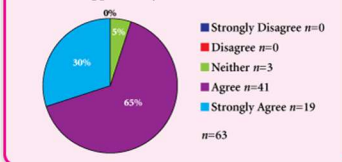
2. *Simultaneous RoundTable*: Teacher assigns a topic or question and provides think time. All four students in the group respond, simultaneously, writing, drawing, or building something. The teacher signals time, students pass papers or projects to the person on the left (clockwise). Students continue adding to what was already completed. Repeat until each student has original paper with peer feedback on it.

### Conclusion:

There are as many strategies as there are different ways to learn. To learn more about cooperative learning, please speak Kagan trainers Tessa Levitt and Kathleen Agnello from CA BOCES, sign out *Kagan Cooperative Learning* from the front office, or visit any of the following sites/resources:

- National Education Association:  
<http://www.nea.org/tools/16870.htm>
- ASCD:  
<http://www.ascd.org/publications/books/194034/chapters/What-Is-Cooperative-Learning%C2%A2.aspx>
- Edutopia:  
<https://www.edutopia.org/video/60-second-strategy-cooperative-learning-roles>

**Figure 1:** Cooperative learning structures provide me the opportunity to learn more in class.



**Figure 2:** Cooperative learning structures enhance my level of engagement during a lesson.

