

THE LITERACY DEN

THE LITERACY NEWSLETTER OF MINOR HIGH SCHOOL



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Meet **Mrs. Nastassia Law**! Mrs. Law teaches math here at Minor High. During a recent classroom visit, it was very noticeable that Mrs. Law was intentional with her use of math vocabulary during instruction in the remote classroom. She masterfully wove math terminology into the lesson in ways that students could easily understand. When asked about her thoughts on utilizing content area vocabulary with students, she mentioned the importance of not shying away from using content area language for fear that students might not understand. She mentioned using those words constantly so that when testing time arrives there isn't a gap in knowledge which will automatically disadvantage students. An instructional quote she lives by is "Meet all students where they are and support them in achieving what they can."

KEY ARTICLE

Vocabulary is important to increasing students' overall content area literacy. There are so many articles out there. However, here is one that offers simple strategies for infusing content area vocabulary in your classroom (click link): [10 Dos & Don'ts For Teaching Vocabulary In Any Content Area](#)



POWER STRATEGIES

There are a plethora of strategies that teachers can use to expand students' knowledge and use of content area vocabulary. Here are two (click links):

1. [Graffiti Word Wall](#)
2. [Word Sneak](#)

DR. NELSON'S ADVICE

As surprising as this may sound, teen brains are very malleable (lol)! They are able to learn whatever we put before them- vocabulary being a part of that. If we want students to learn, retain, and use vocabulary, we must do two things: allow students to hear the words in context and to use the words in context. These are two high leverage strategies that can make a significant difference in content area vocabulary acquisition. Whatever you do, model the use of content area vocabulary often. When students hear those words modeled and see them often, they are more likely to recognize, understand, and utilize them. This will strengthen their overall content area literacy.

DR. S. NELSON,
INSTRUCTIONAL COACH
SNELSON@JEFCOED.COM
KALVIN EATON, PRINCIPAL