

Teachers' Bulletin

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905-332-1228

Interesting read!

Matching Teaching Style to Learning Style May Not Help Students Psychologists Claim

Excerpts from an article by David Glenn, Chronicle of Higher Education, December 15, 2009

There is no strong scientific evidence to support the "matching" idea, they contend in a paper published in *Psychological Science in the Public Interest*.

In almost every actual well-designed study, Mr. Pashler and his colleagues write in their paper, "Learning Styles: Concepts and Evidence," the pattern is similar: For a given lesson, one instructional technique turns out to be optimal for all groups of students, even though students with certain learning styles may not love that technique.

What this means for instructors, Mr. Pashler says, is that they should not waste any time or energy trying to determine the composition of learning styles in their classrooms.

Instead, teachers should worry about matching their instruction to the content they are teaching. Some concepts are best taught through hands-on work, some are best taught through lectures, and some are best taught through group discussions.

To read the full article: [[Link](http://chronicle.com/article/Matching-Teaching-Style-to/49497/)]<http://chronicle.com/article/Matching-Teaching-Style-to/49497/>

Board's Growing Success Policy Draft Received

The District Office has received drafts of the Board's policies on cheating and plagiarism, late and missed assignments, and reporting grades for marks lower than 50%. The policy and procedures drafts will be discussed at the next meeting of the TBU Council on January 18. A final draft will likely be submitted to the trustees for approval in mid-February.

Markbook an Orphan!

The lack of training for Markbook was raised at Staffing Advisory on Dec. 8. After much discussion, it became apparent that the adoption level at the school level is not consistent, and that Teacher training was not accounted for, or allocated in any budget. It was also acknowledged that nobody in the Board has responsibility for Markbook. The Board has committed to addressing this concern and is going to come up with a training plan that would include a consistent approach on how to use the program.

Noteworthy Dates on the Critical Path

Teachers should note the following items and upcoming dates of importance from the Board's critical path:

- Information packages regarding voluntary transfer and exchanges (between schools within the Board) should now be available from school admin.
- **January 19:** Deadline for Seniority Information Sheets and for submitting, in writing, appeals regarding addition of "Subjects Successfully Taught".
- **February 15:** Deadline for requesting a leave of absence for September, 2011.
- **March 1:** Deadline for requesting for September 2011 a voluntary transfer/exchange, extension of leave of absence, reduced assignment, extension of reduced assignment, consideration for increased assignment, confirmation of intent to return to previous employment status, confirmation of intent to return from a leave of absence.

Bill 168 amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Act

Workplace violence means:

- The exercise of physical force by a person against a worker, in a workplace, that causes or could cause physical injury to the worker
- An attempt to exercise physical force against a worker, in a workplace, that could cause physical injury to the worker
- A statement or behaviour that it is reasonable for a worker to interpret as a threat to exercise physical force against the worker, in a workplace, that could cause physical injury to the worker.

Workplace harassment means:

- Engaging in a course of vexatious comment or conduct against a worker in a workplace that is known or ought reasonably to be known to be unwelcome.
- Workplace harassment may include bullying, intimidating or offensive jokes or innuendos, displaying or circulating offensive pictures or materials, or offensive or intimidating phone calls.

Right to Refuse Work

The Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1990 affirmed three important rights for workers:

1. The right to know about all hazards in the workplace;
2. The right to participate in training and consideration of issues; and
3. The right to refuse unsafe work.

How serious is this issue?

Section 43 of the Act provides that:

You may refuse to work where you have "reason to believe" that any equipment, machine, device, thing, or physical condition of the workplace is likely to endanger yourself or another worker.

You do not have to prove it is unsafe - only have "reason to believe."

Note: You cannot refuse to work because of a person or if you work in a Section 19 school or a residential facility (education in a care and treatment centre or correction facility contracted to local Board, formerly Section 27). Remember, the Education Act requires that you must ensure the safety of students in your care first.

Contact John Watson, TBU Health and Benefits Officer, 905-332-1228 for further information.

Don't just complain – FILE!

It is not only an employer's legal obligation to provide a safe and healthy workplace, but it is a right of all workers to work in a safe and healthy environment. There is however, an obligation on the worker to report in **WRITING** unsafe or unhealthy work environments. Verbal discussions are pleasant (and can easily be ignored), but do not meet the legal requirement of reporting health and safety concerns.

It is important that you file an Occupational Health and Safety Concern Form (reporting a potential or existing hazard which you believe presents a risk to workers in your workplace) with administration or an Employee Incident Report (accidents or medical issues arising from Health and Safety concerns).

Administration cannot refuse the forms and must process the forms through the proper Board channels. Both forms are available from the school's administration or your school's health and safety representative.

Exam Supervision Guidelines Being Finalized

The Exam Supervision Committee met on December 15th to look at schools' exam supervision plans for semester 1. Only seven schools had responded to the committee's request for information. Supt. Stuart Miller has sent out a second request. The committee will be meeting again in January. The committee's aim is to create guidelines for assigning exam supervisions that will promote equity among teachers and, wherever possible, minimize the number of supervisions.

Attendance Management System an Issue

In a letter dated December 24th, the Director has replied to the Halton Union Coalition's letter of concern (Dec. 3rd) regarding the dysfunction of the Board's Advisory Committee for its Attendance Support Program. The Director has addressed some of HUC's concerns. The members of HUC will decide whether to attend any further meetings once the Advisory Committee indicates that change is on the agenda.

OSSTF – Teacher's Retirement Workshop

The Retirement workshop will occur on February 24th, 2011 @ M.M. Robinson High School in Burlington. The workshop will begin at 6:30pm and conclude around 9:00. To reserve your place at the workshop please contact Lorie Wiersma at 905 332 1228.