

Teacher: ↵

For my students, it's showing that you are supportive and there to keep tabs on them, like another parent. You maximize each opportunity as a positive step forward; you encourage them and cheer them on. My biggest challenge was to raise their reading and writing levels. Using Fountas and Pinnell's benchmark reading levels A-Z, I was told it would suffice to at least keep their reading levels steady while improving their written essay scores .5 – 1.0 points (based on a 4.0 system); however, this was not sufficient for my standards. I managed to raise 75% of my students' levels two to three Fountas and Pinnell levels. This translates into an increase of one full grade level. As for their essays, my students increased by 1.5-2.5 points, bringing them into the average to above-average range. ¶

Over 90% of my students have been ELLs and this movement upwards is my greatest reward. It's not to say that it's easy; it isn't—it's difficult, not just for them, but for me as well. Until they see the tangible evidence of their improvement, they give me a *very* difficult time. The work, and constant independent reading and writing workshop exercises are intense and implemented on a daily basis. But the technique lies in finding their academic balance—finding reading, writing, and sometimes creating topics and researching subjects that *matter* to them. It eliminates much of the struggle, because even though they are learning to write a nonfiction compare-and-contrast essay, they are at least comparing things they know and enjoy (i.e. video games, movies, actors, sports, etc.). This way the necessary skills are being worked on and practiced. Once their confidences rise, they bravely explore other subjects and topics. ¶

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Vision: At King County Academy, our goal is to:

- → Set high expectations regarding our students' social growth and academic development.
- → Provide enhanced background knowledge across content area and integrate them together.
- → Use teaching methods to accelerate the pace at which ELL students absorb grade-level content.
- → Train all teachers to effectively apply instructive strategies that engage all students' academic abilities.
- → Create an alliance between the members of the community to promote family engagement in the student learning process.

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Lulu Murphy 5/6/2013 4:13 PM
Comment [1]: I cannot figure out what you are trying to say here. The sentence is very confusing; please reword.

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