

Dear Magna Staff,

>
> I was at a principals' literacy meeting last week when Lynne Greenwood
> (Reading Specialist at USOE) mentioned that a good place to begin
> raising AYP scores for any school is basically /positive thinking—focusing on the idea that we can make a difference. This
> suggestion made me think of all the good things that happen to me when
> I am focusing on positive possibilities rather than the negative ones.
> I have learned about this /looking at things in a positive light/ from
> Ernie. I am sure this is no surprise to many of you.
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> Sometimes it is hard to take constructive criticism and turn it into a
> positive, growing experience, but we know that if we don't make changes (we keep doing what we have always done), we will continue to
> get what we have been getting. That is what we are talking about when
> we hone in on data-driven instruction. We have to be willing to take
> risks that carry us out of our comfort zones. When we make decisions
> based on improvement in student learning rather than what we like to
> do or think is best, we are making progress! What worked eight years
> ago may not be what "works" in education today. Those kids we have in
> class are the ones we have to focus on, even though they are harder
> than the students we taught twenty years ago or two years ago.
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> These are tough weeks for all of us with the testing and more testing.
> We feel the pressure to improve and somehow influence our students to
> do the very best they can. It is easy to get discouraged, but
> resisting what is easy brings rewards. Let's put the power of positive
> thinking into action! Have a great week. You are amazing.
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> Love,
>
> Paula

Paula