

MAY APES NEWSLETTER

TRY YOUR HARDEST

DO YOUR BEST

BUT ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU ARE MORE THAN A TEST

That is the saying on the shirt that I wore today. My kiddos are in the library taking their test. I kept telling myself, just make it through Tuesday morning, just make it to Tuesday.

So now we are here. I will be sending out another newsletter in late May that discusses action items for summer (if you want, if not you could do them at the start of the new school year) such as IPR reports, setting scope and sequence, and reflection.

I do want to take a minute to just say Thank You! There are over 400 of you on this newsletter. Hearing with and engaging with other teachers always sparks creativity in me and helps me process things that I should be doing to help my students succeed. If you have ideas, comments, or feedback on the newsletter, please respond to this email and let me know! What things did you enjoy? What things would you like to see? What things could be improved?

The last thing that I wanted to say is that you are more than your scores. I would encourage you to reflect on your scores - what things do you think you did well? What things did you struggle with? How did your pacing go? Where did you spend too much time? Where did you struggle? These are important things to keep in mind especially as you get results and IPR reports in July. But right now I want you to focus on things that went well. Maybe your APES numbers were higher than ever? Maybe you did more labs than other years. Maybe you did more FRQ practice than before. Any way you frame it, you probably had some successes. Those are things that you should hold close and be proud of. This year was filled with quarantines, students that have forgotten how to “school” and sub shortages. This year deserves as much as a caveat and asterisk on scores as 2020 and 2021.

Additionally, I want to just emphasize that this isn't a competition. There are always plenty of people that are proud of their scores and they should be! But all of us enter from various points. Some of us teach in college-prep schools in which the students walk in as 5's and we are guiding along the way. Some of us teach in urban schools with no access to the outdoors. Some of us teach 1 section of apes with 7 kiddos, some of us teach 5-6 sections with more than 30 apiece. Everyone is in a different scenario and successes related to scores belong to the students. Some have great support at home and great early high school teachers that prepare them well. Some struggle to find housing, work jobs to support families, worry about personal issues, or where they will get their next meal from. Some of us teach 9th graders who have never taken AP, some of us teach juniors and seniors that have never taken AP and have poor science practices skills. The playing field is not even and therefore while I encourage

you to reflect on your scores, I would also encourage you not to put too much stock in them. They don't define you and there is nothing wrong with you not sharing them or not wanting to engage in those discussions. Guard your energy closely, friends. Your students are better scientists, better observers, and better students because of APES, and that is what matters most. You made a difference this year and I know that your students are eternally grateful.

As always if you have questions or comments feel free to reply to this email or reach out at kshapiro86@gmail.com

Upcoming Trainings and Events

Training is one of the best things you can do to help improve your practice. Three opportunities I want to draw your attention to:

- [AP Summer Institutes](#) - offered throughout the summer in both face-to-face and virtual formats. Find out more info here and [sort by leader using these slides](#).
- [HHMI Biointeractive offers lots of workshops](#) - I recently attended one it was PHENOMENAL! The workshops really take a deep dive into skills and allow participants to become better versed with the plethora of offerings from HHMI. Many sessions for this semester are over, but keep checking back for summer and fall offerings.
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I hope that this is helpful to you! As always please reach out with questions or comments!

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