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This newsletter is brought to you by  
Maris Hawkins and Stacey  
Margarita Johnson

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# MIDWEEK NEWS AND UPDATES

WHILE YOU'RE WAITING FOR THE NEXT  
WTL PODCAST EPISODE TO COME OUT...



## Preview of the Next Episode

EPISODE 67: PURSUING PROFICIENCY IN WILLIAMSON  
COUNTY SCHOOLS, PART II

Last week, in the first part of this two-part episode, we met the language teachers on the curriculum writing team of the Williamson County School District in Tennessee and heard about some of the truly remarkable results they are achieving with their new proficiency-oriented curriculum. In the second part, the teachers share some of the big ideas and classroom practices that produce proficiency in their classrooms. What does a proficiency-oriented classroom look like?

Find out this Friday!

You might also notice that this week's episode is a bit longer than our typical 15-20 minutes. We just couldn't bear to cut any of it. So, this week's episode is long. Really long. As much as we have worked to keep the episodes a consistent length for most of the 67 installments, we think you'll agree that, sometimes, we need to hear the whole story. We can't wait to hear your feedback on ep 67 and your own proficiency stories!

We are writing one curriculum for all the languages... Now, Brian the German teacher and Rebecca the Spanish teacher can sit down and plan together, and they have common goals that they plan around.

**RESPONSE TO EPISODE 66:  
PURSUING PROFICIENCY  
WITH WILLIAMSON COUNTY SCHOOLS**

This week's episode reaction is from Meredith White. Meredith White is an avid tweeter and an instructor in Gwinett County Schools and Georgia State University. She also blogs at Path2Proficiency.

Robert Collard sums it up when he says simply, "We're free from all that now." Wow. I paused the episode and ran it back about twenty seconds just to hear that again, three times. "All that" refers to everything that has belabored language teachers since, well, always. The Williamson County teachers and coordinator bring their experience and reflections to the very real and relatable levels of planning (and being "free" now) as well as to the classroom and hallway: kids getting excited about using the language and the excitement (and achievement!) spreading. Furthermore, kids don't just get excited about learning, they get excited about showing off what they can do: "If we do it right, assessment is a motivator." Just like high-caliber athletes are ready for the game, students are ready (and excited!) for the 'test' when the teaching is focused on performance and proficiency. For high-achieving students who are always looking for their next achievement, they're challenged with an ice cream metaphor: "That's good, but, more sprinkles!" This episode features so much wisdom from real teachers in real classrooms where the pedagogy hits the pavement. "Nothing succeeds like success!" and that's exactly what's happening in Williamson County Schools.

**Reactions to  
past episodes:**

 **Thomas Sauer**  
@tmsaeu1 Following

Thrilled to see the work of @wcsCOcg teachers featured. The entire episode is just SOOOOOOO good. Listen if you want to start the proficiency discussion in your school. Listen if you have already started and feel alone. #leadwithlanguages #langchat #2bilit2quit #path2proficiency

 **Melanie Thomas**  
@senoraMThomas Following

Replying to @mmebakerfr @weteachlang

Just listened. Fantastic results that support the changes!

 **Nanette Leonard**  
@nanette\_leonard Following

Replying to @senoraMThomas @mmebakerfr @weteachlang

Thank you for sharing your process! I'm inspired to add some sprinkles on the proficiency parfait / sundae

 **Estefania Becker**  
@EstefaniaBecke1 Following

 outstanding!

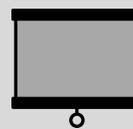
**Resource Corner**

- From Amanda Robustelli-Price, check out this post on seeing work through the lens of proficiency.
- Meredith White blogs about how to self-assess about proficiency levels.
- Maris Hawkins blogs about what not to do when switching to proficiency.
- Kara Parker and Meghan Smith have a collection of posts about transitioning to proficiency.

**Updates from Past Contributors**



Congratulations to Erin Carlson (episode 51)! She just had a new baby this August. Her daughter is named Ginger Anne. Welcome to the WTL podcast family, Ginger Anne!



Noemi Rodriguez (episode 20) recently presented to FLENJ about some of her favorite tech tools to use in the upcoming year. You can find the whole presentation linked here!