Washington FPS

FROM THE AD'S DESK
AUGUST 2019

Machias Elementary students at 2019 State Bowl

North River students and coach Kari Beyer at 2019 State Bowl

Hello Coaches,

Whether you've been coaching 2 years or 30 years, please consider becoming an evaluator. As an FPS GIPS coach for over 30 years, I realized early on that the best avenue to being a successful coach involved training to become an evaluator as the instructions and guidelines given to the evaluators were invaluable when teaching students the subtle differences between acceptable, good and awesome. Although I attended a coaches training almost every year, it was when I decided to attend an evaluator training and become an evaluator that I realized how much more the students could accomplish as they focused on succinct wording, crisp logic, and creative connections.

Every year we conduct evaluator trainings for any new evaluators. Most trainings are conducted remotely as many evaluators do not live in Washington State. Please contact the evaluation director, Ann Foreyt, ann.foreyt@gmail.com, for more information about evaluator training.

This year WAFPS will hold two coaches training sessions, one in Spokane and one in North Bend on August 20 and 22 respectively. If you have never coached before, the beginning training will give you the tools you need to get started. Even if you know nothing about FPS, the advanced training will allow you to meet other coaches, listen to them discuss coaching strategies and their best practices, ask them questions and take home a very valuable tool for coaching. Both training sessions give you access to an online downloadable resource which includes all the research materials you will need for the year, as well as topic activity units that you can use to teach and a questions and answers book for all four topics. Although this resource is available for $135 from FPSPI.mart, WAFPS will conduct the training, make three clock hours available to you and provide the resources mentioned above for $150. You can sign up for the training on the wafps.org website.

For more details about the training sessions, please check out page 3 of this newsletter.

I look forward to hearing from you with any questions you might have about any aspect of the FPS process as the school year gets underway.

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EVALUATING FOR WAFPS

Want to deepen your understanding of the FPS process? The best way is to become an evaluator.

Last year, Michaela Moritz (Shuksan Middle School, Bellingham) was a first-year evaluator and a second-year coach. Becoming an evaluator allowed her to probe more deeply into the FPS process. Here's what she had to say about her work this year.

How many years have you been coaching FPS?
Michaela: "I have been coaching for two amazing years!"

Is there any particular area of the six-step process that you are better prepared to coach because you are an evaluator?
Michaela: "This might seem like a small one, but I feel much better prepared to teach criteria. The nuances of writing criteria can be complicated to students, but it is also an area that carries a lot of weight. I have found that teaching criteria better has also helped me get better at teaching solutions, since they go hand in hand."

How does giving feedback give you a stronger understanding of the six-step process?
Michaela: "In order to give effective feedback, I have to understand the six-step process well enough that I am confident my feedback is accurate. This means I am frequently double checking the six-step process just to brush up my understanding, and it also means my students are frequently double checking the six-step process to brush up their understanding."

How does evaluating many different UP's help you coach your students to be able to develop better UP's?
Michaela: "You learn really quickly what a poor or a good UP reads like, and because of giving feedback you also learn how it could be better. This has helped me in my teaching by helping me break down a bad versus a good UP one line at a time to my students. Sometimes a simple change in words can make a difference, or sometimes I find that a student has a brilliant idea for a UP but doesn't know how to word it so it is understood. Evaluating different UPs helps me be able to help these students."

What is your time commitment as an evaluator?
Michaela: "Most of the time it takes me less than an hour to evaluate one packet, but it depends on the quality of the packet, the amount of feedback a team needs, how fussy my Excel program is being that day, etc. My 'ideal' time, without rushing through a packet, is a half-hour. I usually only evaluate 6-7 packets at a time, so I can get most work done on a weekend."

One thing that you could say that would help other coaches decide that they too could become evaluators.
Michaela: "Before I became an evaluator, I was hesitant to sign up because I thought it would consume all of my time. It doesn't. Once you learn the basics of evaluating, which itself doesn't take long, evaluating is a fairly painless process. An additional awesome thing about evaluating is that the more evaluators there are, the less time it takes, because there are more people to spread the work out. I believe every FPS coach should learn the ins and outs of evaluating if for no other reason than to understand the workings of our program even more, and to truly feel like a 'master' of the content. My students noticed the difference when I signed up as an evaluator. It really is noticeable."

Continued…

Additional Information:

What is the role of evaluation in the FPS program? Evaluation is an essential component of the FPS Program. Written feedback allows our students to grow in their abilities to apply the problem solving process. Evaluation provides students with information on their thinking, their writing, and their understanding of each step of the process. Evaluators work hard to encourage students while providing constructive suggestions for continuing improvement. The Washington FPS program prides itself on the care it takes in evaluating student work.

Who can evaluate? Adults, high school graduates, and college students may evaluate for Washington FPS. Many evaluators have experience in FPS as a coach or student participant. We welcome new evaluators! Contact our Evaluation Director, Ann Foreyt (ann.foreyt@gmail.com) to find out more. Evaluators do not need to be living in Washington to be a part of the evaluation team.

How does evaluation work? Evaluators have the opportunity to train in the fall under the Evaluation Director's guidance. When the booklets are sent to the Affiliate Evaluation Director, they are sorted into sets, mixing up the booklets from various coaches. Evaluators are then sent sets of booklets electronically to evaluate and rank. Evaluators then score the booklets using an online system. Evaluators do not know the teams that they are evaluating, as teams are identified by number only.

What if you haven't evaluated before? Training for new evaluators takes place in the fall where evaluators actually start working on their set of booklets with the assistance of other evaluators and the Affiliate Evaluation Director. New evaluators do need to participate in the fall training and generally have an experienced partner for the first couple of booklets on their own. The Evaluation Director is always available to offer guidance throughout the evaluation process. This might sound a little overwhelming, but it really isn't! The Evaluation Director can answer any of your questions about the process.

What does a commitment to evaluate entail? Evaluators should commit to at least two of the four evaluation periods during the year. They are expected to spend some time reading background articles about the topic from the resource manual. Evaluation Guidelines are also provided with specific suggestions for what to look for in the student booklets. Evaluators should give their best effort in providing positive and constructive feedback to students. Evaluators are also needed at the State Bowl (room and board and extra pay are provided).

FALL COACHES TRAINING

FPS Advanced Coaches Training in North Bend:

This training is designed to help coaches understand the evaluation process and strengthen their coaching through sharing best practices while building a collaborative learning community. Please plan to bring your favorite FPS strategy to share.

Thursday, August 22, 2019: North Bend Library, 5-8 p.m.
115 E 4th St., North Bend. Register online wafps.org/Register & Shop. Please register by August 15.

FPS Beginning Coaches Training in Spokane:

This training is designed to introduce the six-step FPS process to new coaches and to work through each step explaining how to implement the process in a competitive setting.

Tuesday, August 20, 2019: Spokane South Hill Library, 1:15-4:15 p.m.
3324 S. Perry Street, Spokane. Register online wafps.org/Register & Shop. Please register by August 15.

Registration Costs: $150 for one online copy (downloadable at the workshop) per participant of the 2019-2020 All Units Combo (RR&R, Q&A, TAU for practice problems I, II, QP, and State Bowl) and 3 clock hours*. Information for additional clock hours will be available upon request.

*WA FPS is a Washington State Approved Clock Hour Provider

WHERE DO I FIND THAT?

The WAFPS's website has most of what you'll need throughout the school year. Some links to documents for this year will be added as soon as FPSPI releases them.

Topics

What are the topics this year and the associated readings? **Found on the WAFPS website under Coaches/Topics and Suggested Readings.**

Due Dates

What are this year's deadlines? **Found on the WAFPS website under Coaches/Calendar.**

GIPS Key Tips

The essential elements of teaching GIPS with an overview of all parts of the GIPS process, plus tips on how to teach and evaluate examples. A must-have at your fingertips. **Found on the WAFPS website under Coaches/Resources for Coaches. Free.**

Coaches Info Booklet for each component

Everything you need in one place. Another must-have at your fingertips. A comprehensive and essential guide to all aspects of each competition component. **Found on WAFPS under Coaches/Resources for Coaches. Free.**

A Blank Booklet

A blank booklet for both the GIPS team and GIPS Individual. **Found on the WAFPS website under Coaches/Resources for Coaches. Free.**

Fees for 2019-20 school year

What are the fees to register students and teams this year? **Found on the WAFPS website under Coaches/Fees.**

Registration for 2019-20

Ready to register? Register your teams online using the website's online store. **Found on the WAFPS website under Register & Shop.**

Readings, Research, and Resources and Question and Answer Set (RR&R and Q&A)

Provides essential background information for coaches and students. For each of the first four topics of the year, the guide includes the following publications: Themes and Concepts; Terms and Definitions; Overview; Questions for Discussion; Internet Resources; Article Summaries. **Found on the FPSPI site, fpspimart.org.**

Topic Activity Units

Provides a wide variety of instructional activities for preparation on the first four topics of the year. Can be used as a unit of study or activities may be used as desired for particular steps within the process. **Found on the FPSPI site, fpspimart.org.**

Still can't find what you are looking for?

Email jbuissinkwafps@gmail.com or text 509-386-6297. We are here to help.

BEYOND GIPS:

There's more to FPS?

Here are the other components that students can participate in:

Scenario Performance (individual)

In Scenario Performance, students choose the FPS annual topic that interests them as they project twenty years into the future and create a futuristic story. This story is not written out in full; it is "told" and should be more "natural" and "spontaneous" in nature. Performances should be creative and entertaining to an audience. This is a great option for more outgoing or theatrically-minded participants. Scenario Performances are submitted by video recording and are evaluated on both their story and the strength of their story telling.

Scenario Writing (individual)

Scenario Writing is a competition in which individuals (grades 4 – 12) develop short stories related to one of the five FPS topics for the year. The story (1500 words or less) is set at least 20 years in the future and is an imagined, but logical, outcome of actions or events taking place in the world today.

Community Problem Solving (team or individual)

Students involved in Community Problem Solving learn powerful lessons about creating change, about dealing with local authorities and organizations, and about making a positive impact. Students in both team and individual Community Problem Solving apply problem solving strategies and skills to real-world concerns.

2019-2020 TOPICS

PPI: International Travel

PPII: Sleep Patterns

QP: Gamification

SB: Living in Poverty

IC: To be announced in early Spring

FEES 2019-20

Take advantage of early registration fees for 2019-2020 by *registering before September 20.*

GIPS Teams $130 (after September 20: $140)
GIPS Individuals $100 (after September 20: $110)
CmPS Teams or Individuals $115 (after September 20: $130)
CmPS 2nd or 3rd year continuation $25
Scenario Writing $40 (after September 20: $45)
Scenario Performance $40 (after September 20: $45)

Register online at wafps.org.
Have a question? Text/call John @ 509-386-6297

FROM STATE BOWL 2019

Important Dates

8/20: Beginning Coaches Training, Spokane South Hill Library, 1:15-4:15

8/22: Advanced Coaches Training, North Bend Library, 5-8 p.m.

9/20: Early Registration ends

10/11: PPI due

11/13: Last day to register and have PPII evaluated

11/18: PPII due

1/9: CmPS progress reports due

1/14: QP due

1/23: Scenario Writing due

1/23: Scenario Performance due

2/20: CmPS projects due

2/28: Advancing Scenario Writing Cover Sheets due to IO

3/3: State Bowl registration deadline

3/9: Advancing Scenario Writing due to IO

3/18-20: State Bowl at Warm Beach

4/3: Advancing CmPS Cover Sheet due to IO

4/14: Advancing CmPS projects due to IO

6/3-7: 2020 International Conference, Amherst, Massachusetts

Final Words from the AD's Desk

After the phenomenal success of Team Washington at the International Conference, I anticipate another successful year of competition. This year's topics are both thought provoking as well as kid-friendly. You may find that you get as involved in the research as your students.

Please note that some of the dates have changed this year as we will be holding the State Competition from March 18-20, 2020. This is earlier than in previous years, but we hope that this will allow successful teams more time to prepare for the International Conference as well as fundraise for it.

Please call/text (509) 386-6297 or email me (jbuissinkwafps@gmail.com) any time you have questions.

Next Month: **2019-2020 Registration; Topic Descriptors and more**

"Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time." **– Thomas A. Edison**