

Professional Learning Communities

At Pleasant Hope Middle School

Overview

- The Professional Learning Community process is a school improvement model.
- The middle school is in the second year of a three-year training initiative.
 - DESE trainers research techniques and strategies and bring us information to support our progress.
 - Our middle school leadership team attends scheduled training events.
 - The leadership team sifts, and prioritizes this information and brings it to our faculty for consideration and implementation.

Year One Training and Implementation

- We wrote mission and vision statements with the help of our staff, students and parents.
- We documented the learning process in our classrooms
 - Calendar-Based Curriculum Maps (first drafts)

We started working together as a
team of teachers

Year Two (in progress)

- We have written and revised curriculum maps that will be published on our web site by the beginning of 2010.
- Our educational decisions are based on data.
- We have teacher support teams
 - To support student learning
 - To support teachers and their practice

Year Two

- Curriculum
 - By the end of the school year the middle school curriculum narratives will be complete
 - We will have established specific, overarching goals for improving instruction so that our students are MAP-ready.

Year Three should see us

- Implementing teaching strategies that reach a wider variety of learning styles and abilities
- Helping students use data to monitor their own progress
- Continuing to build a culture that values the contributions of every individual to the learning process

You can hear it in the workroom...

Old School

- I just gave the best test ever! It was so hard that most of my students didn't even pass. I have one trick question that no one ever answers correctly!

PLC School

- I'm not sure that my students understand the concepts I presented. I'm going to try a different approach today and see if it makes a difference for them. What do you think?

You can hear it during team meetings...

Old School

- Wow, look at all of these zeros in the grade book. What a bunch of lazy kids! This is really a low class.

PLC School

- I need John during study hall. He needs to make up the work he missed while he was absent.

You can hear it in the classrooms...

Old School

- Now that I've completed the lecture, you need to do this worksheet. You may use your textbook. It is due by the end of the hour. You will be tested over this material next week.

PLC School

- In your group, choose one of the learning activities listed to demonstrate your understanding of the concepts we have discussed.