



It's all
about
learning!



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OUR MISSION

- To guide students to become independent, responsible, life-long learners who are able to work cooperatively and to contribute positively to our ever changing world.



Our parents want their children to
learn at a high level.

“We have an ethical obligation to implement
what is widely accepted as best practices for
those who come seeking our services.”

- Richard DuFour



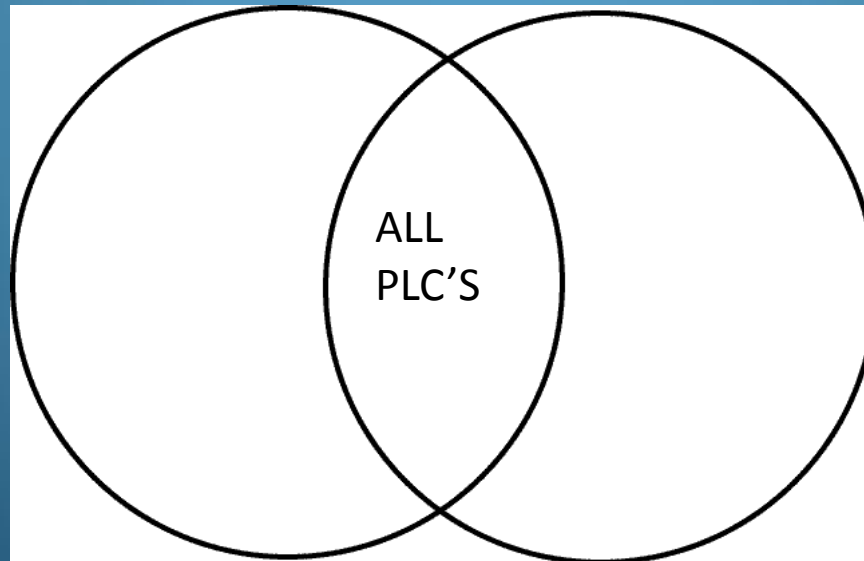
Our Vision for PLC's

- All students will learn at a high level when teachers, support staff and administrators work collaboratively to implement best practices as it relates to student learning.



How will PLC's look for us?

- All PLC's do not look the same. The design and structure will vary based on building needs. All PLC's share the same essential ideas consistently focused on student learning.



Three Big Ideas of PLC

1. The purpose of our school is to ensure all students learn at high levels.
2. Helping all students learn requires a collaborative and collective effort.
3. To assess our effectiveness in helping all students learn we must focus on results.



4 Questions that drive PLCs

1. What is it we expect students to learn?
2. How will we know when they have learned it?
3. How will we respond when they don't learn?
4. How will we respond when they already know it?

What do we expect?

- We will ensure all students learn at high levels and experience rigorous and engaging instruction.
- We will collaborate and take a collective responsibility for student learning.
- We will make decisions based on evidence of student learning.
- We will be intentional about student learning and not leave learning to chance or choice.
- We will provide a systematic process for intervention and enrichment.

Why does this all make sense?

- When we focus on student learning, all of the educational initiatives begin to make sense. A successful Professional Learning Community will be able to embrace the initiatives that support student learning.
 - Common Core State Standards
 - Common assessments
 - RtI
 - Rising Star
 - New teacher evaluation process
 - Social emotional learning standards



How does this impact the student's instructional day?

- Our current middle school structure allows the PLC's to exist by aligning planning periods in the schedule and allowing teachers to meet on Thursdays. There are no changes in the students' day to make this happen.

How does this impact the teacher day?

- On a normal day our teachers have an individual planning period and a team planning period (8white, 6 Blue etc).
- On Thursdays teachers do not attend team meetings, but instead meet with their content area PLC groups in their buildings. (6th Grade LA, 8th Grade Science)

How do the PLC's communicate between buildings?

- Once a month building content area PLC's meet in their cross campus PLC groups (All 7th grade social studies, all PE, etc.)
- We have utilized institute days as much as possible to create larger blocks of time for campus PLC's to work together.
- Every Monday the administrator PLC meets to answer campus related questions that PLC groups may have and to plan future professional development.

First steps for curriculum development in a PLC

- We have worked this fall on answering PLC Question 1: What is it we expect students will learn?
 - Teachers have engaged in professional development on creating units of instruction based on best practices.
 - Teachers are deconstructing and prioritizing their respective standards and working on placing them into unit plans.

Next steps for curriculum development in a PLC

- After the winter break teachers will begin answering PLC Question 2: How will we know when they learned it?
 - Teachers will engage in professional development related to writing common assessments.
 - Teachers will begin writing pre-assessments and post-assessments that are based on the new units they are creating.

Long range goals for our PLC's

- During this school year we want to answer questions 1 and 2 for a single unit in each subject to serve as a model moving forward.
- Continuing unit development and expanding it to include PLC questions 3 and 4 will be the focus of our work for the next three to four years.
- Curriculum development will be a continuous process as teachers seek to improve student learning and address changing standards.

“...A Professional Learning Community is a collaboration of teachers, administrators, parents, and students, who work together to seek out best practices, test them in the classroom, continuously improve processes, and focus on results.”

-Rick DuFour, 2002.

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