PLC Share Out 2015

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Filled Wednesday, May 06, 2015

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In which school is this PLC team based?

Brooklyn Elementary

Who is/was in your group? Please provide names of your team members for the purpose of finding peer contacts for future projects. If possible, please include grade or subject each member teaches, separated by commas: (i.e Chris Brown, Gr 8 math, Sue White, LST)

Variable	Response
Who is/was in your group? Please provide names of your team members for the purpose of finding peer contacts for future projects. If possible, please include grade or subject each member teaches, separated by commas: (i.e Chris Brown, Gr 8 math, Sue White, LST)	1	Paul Otto, grade 4; Caroline Parrish, grade 5/6; Sarah Heselgrave, grade 5/6

If possible, please provide a key contact person(s) who would be willing to answer questions about your project in the event that another educator or group wants to pursue a similar inquiry.

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If possible, please provide a key contact person(s) who would be willing to answer questions about your project in the event that another educator or group wants to pursue a similar inquiry.	Key contact	Sarah Heselgrave

Professional Learning Communities often take up to three years to fully mature and produce consistent results in student learning. The next 2 questions seek to determine where you feel we are on the spectrum of PLC development.Please consider the STAIRS model and following quote, and choose a category below that best describes where your team/school was situated in relation to the definition at the beginning of the year?

"An effective professional learning community has the capacity to promote and sustain the learning of all professional and other staff in the school community with the collective purpose of enhancing pupil learning." (Creating and Sustaining Effective Professional Learning Communities, Louise Stoll et al, 2005, p 181)

starting the journey to become a professional learning community (have plans to achieve the steps)

Where do you feel your group fit on this continuum at the end of the year. At the end of the year our team was:

a developing professional learning community.

Where would you say your team is currently located on the Action Research wheel? (See Action Research model above:

4. Reflecting/analyzing findings

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR PLC INQUIRY

1. Planning: What is/was your Inquiry Question?

How can we improve the creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication of our students?

2. To what student need are/were you responding?

We are responding to a need for greater creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication. This has been based on the observation of our students in recent years.

3. ACTING: What actions/interventions/strategies did you or will you implement or explore?

We have used instant challenges from Destination Imagination Classroom Edition.

3a. What resources, materials, links, tools, experts, or research did you use?

Please provide details so others may easily access those same resources in their similiar inquiries.

Destination Imagination Classroom Edition, DI self-assessments, group developed rubrics, DI appraiser rubrics on team work and creativity and Buck Institute for Education Rubrics.

3b. Did you co-create any new tools, assessments, resources or materials?

Yes, we created self-reflection sheets for each of the 4 C's.

Variable	Response
i. If so, for what grade level or subject area are they best suited?	Grades 4 - 6
ii. If they are accessible for other educators to use, where are they located?	Our group has digital copies of student self-assessments.

4. OBSERVING: What are/were the results of your inquiry/implementation/project?

We noticed that many students had difficulties in accurately assessing themselves on a consistent basis. From our observations as well as student reflections we noted that critical thinking and creativity were the 2 skills most in need of improvement. We focused in on these in on these skills with more emphasis in our directions. At the end of the year, we have observed greater confidence and more risk taking, better collaboration and more relaxation in their creativity. We also noticed improved communication skills in group work and some transfer of all of the 4 C's skills to their everyday work.

5. What types of information/observations/data did you monitor or collect to confirm your intervention is/was working?

Teacher Observation, video of student performances, student's self-reflection sheets, giving written examples of how students demonstrated their own skills.

6. How did your project improve student learning? If you are just starting, in what ways do you anticipate your project will improve student learning?

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7. REFLECTING: What are/were some of the highlights of your PLC journey so far? What worked well?

Students loved to do the DI Challenges, lot of enthusiasm and laughter, Great PLC to work with.

8. What are/were some of the challenges? (By sharing this information, we are better able to identify needed resources, guides or solutions)

Having to find the time to do challenges on a regular basis, letting go of a definite structured lesson. Managing and organizing materials for the DI challenges.

9. What might be helpful to have/know/do next time in order to improve results or move forward?

nothing

10. What are your next steps, moving forward? (i.e. Continue on same project, adapt or expand the project or start on a new focus area/project)

Continue the same project with the possibility of implementing a more developed, extra curricular school DI team. Also including, more DI challenges into our regular time table.

Thank you for your time and for sharing your insights, resources and learning with your colleagues and the educational community.

What's next? We will keep you informed as to where the collection of responses may be accessed, ideally by late May or Early June. It was asked that we have the results of this form sorted into a key-word searchable format, which requires working with IT to develop an appropriate platform or platforms. Themes will also be pulled from the data and shared district wide. Thank you.