Why Learning Improves (and How)

Focusing on Designing Quality Learning Experiences and Achieving Instructional Improvement

June 30, 2009
Key Event

Clarity about who we are and our capacity to change

- **Schlechty Center**
  - Mission
  - Design Qualities
Alignment and Coherence

How can we be sure that students achieve the traits of our mission?

- Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum
- Understanding by Design
- Assessment of and for Learning
Why choose a framework for curriculum development?

Research tells us…

“…systematic observations tell us that certain teaching practices will, with a high degree of probability, have a positive effect on student [learning]” (Reeves *Accountability for Learning* 19)
School Level Factors

- Guaranteed and viable curriculum
- Challenging goals and effective feedback
- Parent and community involvement
- Safe and orderly environment
- Collegiality and professionalism
K-12 Curriculum Review

- Objectives aligned to state & national standards
- Steering Committee & Project Team
- Collaboration and Continuity
  - K-12
  - K-5, 6-8 and 9-12
  - Usable documents
PLC - Late Arrival Days
3 Step Process Based

- **Step 1 – Essential Learnings and Skills**
  - Staff will determine/identify the course essential learnings and skills students should know and be able to demonstrate/apply. (These learner objectives are developed during the K-12 Curriculum Development Process. They are aligned to national, state, local standards.)

- **Step 2 – Assessment Action Plan**
  - Staff will design assessments that maximize assessment for learning and effectively utilize assessment of learning.

- **Step 3 – Design for Learning Action Plan**
  - Increase achievement for all students by continuing to design quality work student work.
PLC - What does a Grade mean in our course?

- **Grading – Shared Understanding**
  - All School Discussion
  - Individual Team Discussion
  - Review of best practice

- **Freshmen Science - pilot**
  - GPS – Grade Position Statement
  - Grading for Mastery vs. Completion
  - 4 Point Grade Scale
DuPage - County Assessment

- **Data Review**
  - ACT, Prairie State – Science Reasoning
  - Content?

- **Essential Skills**
  - Shared Understanding – 35 different High Schools
  - Standards

- **Assessment Development**
  - Content Test
  - Data Collection / Evaluation

- **County wide PLC**
  - Discuss best practice
  - Shared Curriculum
Alignment and Coherence

“To begin with the end in mind means to start with a clear understanding of your destination. It means to know where you are going so that you better understand where you are now so that the steps you take are always in the right direction.”

Steven Covey, *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*