

**Middle Level Principals Meeting  
Tuesday, December 9, 2014**

**Precis**

**Updates**

- SED [Update](#)

**Meeting Topics**

- **Standards-Based Grading and Reporting**
  - Discussion
    - Homer- Shared decision making team considering a change in practice. It started with recognition that state assessments don't tell the whole story and are often not congruent with school practices.
    - North Syracuse- At a similar place. The whole district is looking at grading.
    - Homer- Noticed how they report at New Techs, reporting on content learning as well as the 4Cs. Including information about standards and the 4Cs can be tricky to be consistent. Moving to 1-2-3-4 has occurred in many elementary schools, but that doesn't necessarily mean a standards-based approach.
    - Chittenango- A regional look at standards-based grading could be helpful.
    - Lyncourt- They are all reading a book about standards-based grading: Grading Smarter Not Harder.
    - Homer- Committee moving at a deliberate pace. Patient timeline. Use this year to build background knowledge.
    - Lyncourt- Part of district plan.
    - Jamesville-Dewitt- Recalled that Ithaca brought Tom Guskey to present and it was very powerful.
    - Homer- This is related to efforts toward instruction that is more common across grade levels and subjects.
    - North Syracuse- A part of the hesitation is that standards change. 4Cs don't (and things like effort and perseverance).
    - Homer- Identifying the most important or essential standards is the first step – and it could impact consistency of instruction, too.
    - Lyncourt- People are not used to sharing grading practices. So, cultural issues are at work, too. The conversation quickly includes homework and other grading.
    - Homer- These conversations bring out all sorts of values.
    - Jamesville-Dewitt- Shared the parachute packing metaphor. Talking about grading, scoring, and assignments isn't a new thing – its stuff we should be talking about all the time.
  - Next Steps
    - A [google drive folder](#) has been set up in which we can store things. There is a folder inside there for articles to share and for book information.
    - Jeff will contact Tom Guskey and/or Rick Wormeli
    - We will keep this as a standing item on the agenda
    - Bring this up at BCIC
- **AIS**

- What are people doing?
  - Push-in
  - Pull-out (no evidence of success, anecdotally; no research support)
  - Integrated co-teaching
  - Common intervention period
  - Looking at scheduling opting to get more out of the school day
  - Reduce, but not eliminate
- **Regional Vision for PBL and New Tech Network Schools** (information only)
  - [Innovation Tech](#) is up and running
  - New Tech High School @ Hartnett plans are proceeding for a September 2016 opening.
  - PBLNY 2015 is August 3-5, 2015
  - PBL 101 cohorts being added
  - PBL Primer for Principals at our next meeting

#### **Future meetings (and locations)**

- Thursday, February 5, 2015 (PBL for Principals presentation)
- Tuesday, March 24, 2015 (mental health issues, emotional needs, etc.)
- Thursday, May 21, 2015