

Elementary Principals Meeting Tuesday, October 25, 2011

Précis

Updates

- [SED Update](#)
- 3-8 testing: When will we learn about which books (and parts) will be scheduled on which days? This information is needed in order to better plan accommodations.
- Special area report cards: Is any one changing their practices?
 - West Genesee and Tully have recently changed
 - Most districts do special area report cards 2x per year; a few do it 4x
 - On some report cards, some now have a comment in their subject's section rather than just the classroom teacher comments at the end
 - The shift can encourage a larger consideration of what is important. For example, is it soccer we want kids to learn, or is it agility, balance, space, collaboration, etc.
 - Character education traits can be commented on by special area teachers as well as classroom teachers.
- Academic Vocabulary: who is working on this?
 - Marzano's Building Background Knowledge is in the [ASCD collection](#).
 - One district has started by identifying common vocabulary for Kindergarten.
 - OCS has tagged specific words to specific grade levels in order to make sure they are taught.
 - Fabius-Pompey has been using Marzano's list.
 - Solvay has student notebooks for academic vocabulary. The notebooks (with tabs and color coding) travel with the students from year to year.

Meeting Topics

- Common Core Implementation (so far)
 - One district did a gap analysis for math which got people excited about the chance to go deeper and less broad.
 - Some teachers are nervous about the choices of what to teach less in order to teach some things more.
 - A district is fully implementing K-2 CCLS this year.
 - Some schools have teams of teachers working on CCLS literacy standards.
 - Another district is taking a lower-key approach to the CCLS while the APPR has everyone's attention and anxiety.
 - Some teachers who are still able to goal-set are electing to do their new "units" as part of the goal-setting.
- APPR (so far)
 - Teacher of record is causing some worry. AIS teachers? Impact on student teacher acceptance?
 - Focus the conversation on the NYS Teaching Standards. They are not controversial.
 - Some principals are already moving away from doing observations the way they used to – to mini-observations as well as evidence collection.
 - Teachers are more informed than they used to be.

- Some still don't believe it will happen.
- One school is offering the option of sitting down with teachers to look at the collected evidence together.
- Less attention is being paid to principal APPR than teacher APPR.
- Principals are really caught in the middle of all of this.
- It's hard to be the leader of this when there are so many unknowns.
- In some districts, teachers and principals are participating in each other's APPR process negotiations.
- A couple of schools are going through sections of their rubric at different faculty meetings. A section becomes the theme for the month. Suggestion: add a food theme to the month to accompany the rubric theme!

Future meetings (and locations)

December 14, 2011

February 16, 2012

May 29, 2012

Center Conference Room

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