

Questions:

1. Do you have teachers teams?
2. How are your teacher teams organized? Who is included? Who is not included?
3. When do your teams of teachers meet? Is there common planning time?
4. If teachers are not on teams, how do they receive/supply information about curriculum, students, etc.?
5. How are these team meetings facilitated and what are the different roles of each person?
6. How would you describe the effectiveness of your teacher teams? Why?
7. Is there other information that you would like to share?

Driver Middle School

1. Do you have teacher teams?

Yes, 7-8 meet daily as grade level teams, 6th grade meets daily as grade level, 4-6 meet weekly as curriculum and grade level teams.

2. How are your teacher teams organized? Who is included? Who is not included?

7-8 are grade level teams. 4-6 are grade level, but we also meet as curricular teams for SS, Math, Sci, ELA.

3. When do your teams of teachers meet? Is there common planning time?

6th gr. has common planning, 4-5 has split common planning (3 teachers together and 4 teachers together depending on special schedule - our specials schedule really drives our teaming, we are working on 4-6 common planning and team meeting for 10-11')

4. If teachers are not on teams, how do they receive/supply information about curriculum, students, etc.?

Special area teachers receive minutes, and are updated by the school counselor.

5. How are these team meetings facilitated and what are the different roles of each person?

7-8 is facilitated by different admin. on different days (Curric. co-ord, asst. prin., school counselor, and two days are teacher facilitated)

6. How would you describe the effectiveness of your teacher teams? Why?

Getting better, our student advocacy team 4-6 works very well, we are adopting some 4-6 practices in 7-8 to mirror what they are being effective with. Teams generally spend time talking about students in 7-8, but don't always end with strategies. Elementary teams are effective, particularly our 4th grade team (veteran teachers motivated to share and be productive, student centered).

7. Is there other information that you would like to share?

Co-teach always plan and team together here.

Pine Grove (ESM)

1. Do you have teacher teams?

Three interdisciplinary teams per grade level that meet every other day in a four day cycle. On the opposite days teachers meet as grade level departments.

2. How are your teacher teams organized? Who is included? Who is not included?

Four core content teachers and an administrator and counselor rotates in once per week or more if requested by the team.

Not included are Special Education Teachers - are included if possible in the master schedule (Subject/Content Area Co-Teaching Model and this is problematic at times)

3. When do your teams of teachers meet? Is there common planning time?

Every other day on a four day cycle. Common planning time for grade level departments.

Team Leaders meet once a month with the Principal.

4. If teachers are not on teams, how do they receive/supply information about curriculum, students, etc.?

Team Leader Meeting Minutes

E-Mail

Counselors

5. How are these team meetings facilitated and what are the different roles of each person?

Team Meetings are facilitated by Team Leaders.

Grade Level Department Collaboration during the day are conducted in the spirit of equal collaboration. Department Leaders hold full Department meetings after school once a month. Each Department has grade-level specific SMART goals that align with our School Improvement Plan and District Strategic Plan. Work during department times are focused on these goals.

6. How would you describe the effectiveness of your teacher teams? Why?

Overall, effective. Communication with staff not on the teams is always a challenge. This is our first year of having Interdisciplinary teams meet every other day due to adding common grade level department time, so it has been an adjustment with plusses and minusses. Time during the day to write and analyze common assessments is a definite plus.

7. Is there other information that you would like to share?

Having three teams per grade level presents a challenge in accomplishing our goals. I would be interested in knowing if there are other schools that have roughly 800 students and how they team.

Liverpool

1. Yes

2. Math, English, SS, Science Tech/F&CS (20 wks each).

3. Yes - Block 1 while all students are in Band/Chorus/Orchestra and other specials.

4. NA

5. Extremely successful - especially now with the formal RTI process.

6. There is a collaborative approach to helping students success and as well as a vehicle to foster professional growth through cross-content integration.

Solvay MS

1. Do you have teacher teams?

Yes, each grade level has a team.

2. How are your teacher teams organized? Who is included? Who is not included?

Each grade level has a team of teachers made up of math, English, SS, science and foreign language. Also involved in on the team are guidance counselors and our school psychologist, school social worker and administrator. The guidance counselors attend each grade level meeting once a week. The psychologist and social worker attend the meetings as needed. I attend the meetings on a regular basis.

3. When do your teams of teachers meet? Is there common planning time?

They have two common plan periods every day. They meet once a week as a team and once during the week with the guidance counselors. Throughout the rest of the week they meet informally or as needed.

4. If teachers are not on teams, how do they receive/supply information about curriculum, students, etc.?

The information is shared as needed, but there is no formal way that the departments get the information. However, if there is a meeting with the guidance counselor then the information is disseminated to all of the student's teachers.

5. How are these team meetings facilitated and what are the different roles of each person?

Each team has a grade level coordinator who facilitates the meetings, but each member of the team contributes.

6. How would you describe the effectiveness of your teacher teams? Why?

Our grade 6-8 teams have been working for the past few months to improve the RTI process to better help students who are having difficulties. This has also changed the format of the meetings. The meetings are more focused on what teachers are doing to help the student and what else they can do to help. There is more structure to the process and this leads to more substantive discussion.

7. Is there other information that you would like to share?

Lafayette

1. Do you have teacher teams? We have two teams, one 7th and one 8th grade team.

2. How are your teacher teams organized? Who is included? Who is not included? Included in the teams are the four core teachers and one special education teacher.

3. When do your teams of teachers meet? Is there common planning time? Per their teacher contract and I quote "In addition to the weekly minimum planning time described in the above contract, teachers of students in grades 7 and 8 in the Jr/Sr High School will have a scheduled team planning period every other day and count as a .5 assignment.

4. If teachers are not on teams, how do they receive/supply information about curriculum, students, etc.? All of our teachers are on the same team.

5. How are these team meetings facilitated and what are the different roles of each person? The team designates a team leader based on the topic for the meeting. The meetings however have moved from curriculum based conversations to student "problem" conversations. The initial reason for giving team time was for the teachers to collaborate and share strategies that were working with students, but I cannot say that is what is happening on a daily basis.

6. How would you describe the effectiveness of your teacher teams? Why? The team concept has really helped the transition from the elementary school to the Junior High School.

7. Is there other information that you would like to share?

WGMS

1. Do you have teacher teams?

yes - two Teams at each grade 6-8. We have 700 students total in building.

2. How are your teacher teams organized? Who is included? Who is not included?

Teams consist of core teachers - including reading in grades 6 & 7. 8th grade is same but foreign teams participate with both teams.

3. When do your teams of teachers meet? Is there common planning time?

Planning time for Team is the same at each grade level. They meet daily. This allows for cross Team discussion, planning, with Team or content teacher. We also incorporate Tech. planning time one day a week.

4. If teachers are not on teams, how do they receive/supply information about curriculum, students, etc.?

Generally through our guidance staff and through our middle school curriculum council. Subject coordinator represents group. Difficult at times.

5. How are these team meetings facilitated and what are the different roles of each person?

Counselors play a role in facilitation two to three times a week. When not present, a representative of Team (leader) coordinates.

6. How would you describe the effectiveness of your teacher teams? Why?

Overall effective. The general makeup of each Team is different based on staff. Important to not spend all time on students who are not doing. We have also aligned content teachers across Teams at grade level with common planning time. This enhances content discussion.

7. Is there other information that you would like to share?

We are looking to put Special Education (co-teach) teachers on Teams at each grade level. This is key with so many expectations on teaching staff with co-teach and support for identified students. I also welcome ideas on how to accomplish this. It cuts into access to students for resource support.

Chittenango

1. Do you have teacher teams? Yes

2. How are your teacher teams organized? Who is included? Who is not included?

6th grade; 2- 7th grade; 2- 8th grade.

The team is made up of only core teachers at this time.

3. When do your teams of teachers meet? Is there common planning time?

Most teams meet during planning time, usually every other day. One team meets regularly after school on Fridays and they appear to be the most cohesive and productive.

4. If teachers are not on teams, how do they receive/supply information about curriculum, students, etc.?

Pertinent information is shared via email to and from teams.

5. How are these team meetings facilitated and what are the different roles of each person?

Currently, there are clearly defined roles and they act as a unit. Only one has a team leader.

6. How would you describe the effectiveness of your teacher teams? Why?

At this time, there is a great variance and I believe that this is due to the lack of clearly defined roles, protocols, goals, vision and purpose.

7. Is there other information that you would like to share?

Teaming is obviously going to be a focus on mine in year two on the job. Coming from a strong established team system in my previous district, I believe that there are some "must haves" to effective teaming. In addition to the items that must be clearly communicated from question six, teams should meet regularly (every other day-- we met daily for a year and lost focus) with administrative/counseling attendance sporadically. Team leader and secretary are essential roles to facilitate meetings and share communications through minutes to be sent out electronically with those that are not in attendance. Cross sections of the non-core academic areas should be included in meeting to give varying perspectives, such as the Spanish teacher rotating with 7th grade and French with 8th, allowing and fostering cross communication.

OHMS

1. Do you have teacher teams? Yes

2. How are your teacher teams organized? Who is included? Who is not included?

Grade level team at 5th and 6th (7 sections each). Interdisciplinary teams at 7th and 8th (3 total).

Teams at 5 & 6 include classroom teachers and special educators. At 7 & 8 they include English, Math Social Studies, Science, foreign language (when available) and special educator(s).

3. When do your teams of teachers meet? Is there common planning time?

There are scheduled team meeting times during the school day. There is common planning time. Teams are required to meet every other day.

4. If teachers are not on teams, how do they receive/supply information about curriculum, students, etc.?

Pertinent information is shared via email to and from teams and at staff meetings. Guidance counselors, administrators, literacy specialists and the technology integration specialist are all frequent visitors. We also have expanded teams, adding special subject area teachers to the teams that meet after school monthly. We also schedule departmental teams four times a year .

5. How are these team meetings facilitated and what are the different roles of each person? We are implementing the PLC model so team have established norms and select their own facilitators.

6. How would you describe the effectiveness of your teacher teams? Why?

Historically they have been very effective for routine coordination and parent conferences but not so much for curriculum work or best practice discussions. As they move to the higher plateau of a Professional Learning Community, they are struggling a bit.

7. Is there other information that you would like to share?

Teams would always like to include foreign language teachers and special educators but that is not always possible. Someone has to be with the students.