
*English Language Arts
K-12 PLC*

BOE Update

May 10, 2010

Karen Bronson, Principal BBMS

Deborah Weisel, Principal BMPRSS

ELA PLC K-5

- Facilitator: Deborah Weisel

- Members: S. Smith, K. Tagliaferri, M. Jackson, A. Bal, A. Fagan, J. Scardina, A. Blumstein, S. Taylor, T. Menn, T. Sadler, J. Giard, C. Morgan, C. McLaughlin, P. Brandt

- Meetings:
 - Two Mondays a month (PLC) 3:15–4:15
 - Grade level groups
 - Independent work between meetings to complete tasks

ELA 6-12 PLC

- **Facilitators:** Karen Bronson and Jon Ambrosio

- **Members:** C. Colangelo, M. Daly, D. Dillon, J. Follansbee, T. Gianfrancesco, M. Goett, M. Gumpel, J. Kenyon, T. Messina, A. Schwittek, S. Stevens, C. Treacy, H. Burg

- **Meetings:**
 - Two Mondays a month (PLC and Dept. Mtg) 2:50-3:50
 - As needed by grade level
 - Independent work between meetings to complete tasks

ELA PLC K-12 Team Norms

- Begin and end meetings on time; respect the agenda
- Come to meetings prepared and ready to participate
- Remain engaged, listen, offer constructive feedback
- Maintain confidentiality of individual viewpoints
- Decision making by consensus, with all team members having equal voice
- Work shared equally; solutions offered for problems expressed

Learning Together

■ *K-5*

- Identifying knowledge and skills that are essential at all levels
- Matching national standards
- Providing clear articulation and progression of learning

Learning Together...

Middle School Conferences:

- “Improving State Test Scores”
- “What’s New in Adolescent Literature”
- “Improving Reading Comprehension”
- “Writing on Demand”

What have we accomplished ?

*We have focused on our
primary PLC question:*

*What do we expect
students to learn?*

What have we accomplished?

■ *K-5 Assessments*

- *Observe and recognize competencies and strengths*
- *Notice strategies and processes*
- *Determine what the child can understand*
- *Identify areas of weakness and confusion*
- *Identified benchmarks*

What have we accomplished?

■ *K-5 Curriculum*

- *Foundations implementation*
- *Enhancing curriculum calendars, with a writing focus*
- *The Workshop Model-Guided Reading*
- *Increased fiction and non-fiction titles*

Writing 6-12

- *We have established a creative and expository writing benchmark at each grade level*

Writing 6-12

- *We have established a means of tracking individual student growth in writing by tri-annual assessments.*

Writing

- *We have implemented the Writing 6+1 program at the middle school*

6+1 Traits of Writing

- *Content*
- *Organization*
- *Voice*
- *Word Choice*
- *Sentence Fluency*
- *Conventions*
- + Presentation*

Writing

- *At the high school level the focus is on:*
 - *The writing process*
 - *The building blocks of good writing*
 - *Four major types of writing*
 - *Writing fluency and style*

Grammar and Usage

- *We have adopted*
Strategies for Writers:
Conventions and Skills
Practice Book for
Grammar, Usage and
Mechanics in Grades 6–8

Grammar and Usage

- *Grammar and Usage for Better Writing (Amsco)* will provide the framework for ongoing lessons in writing conventions in the high school

Research

- *We are studying the “I Search” method as a framework for teaching research skills in the middle and high school*

Reading and Literature

- *We have added new reading assessments in the middle and high school and used the data provided to enhance instruction*

Reading and Literature

- *Conducted an audit of what our students currently read in Grades 6-12*
 - *Identified needs*
 - *Added new titles*

Reading and Literature

- *Added non-fiction collections in 6th and 7th grade and non fiction titles, such as Three Cups of Tea in 8th grade.*

Word Study 6-12

- *We have broadened our study of vocabulary to include the study of*
 - *Latin ,Greek, Roman and Anglo Saxon roots*
 - *Suffixes and prefixes*
 - *Specialized vocabulary*
 - *Connotation and denotation*
 - *Context clues*
 - *Source: Amsco Vocabulary Explorations for Grades 6-8*

Practice Makes Perfect...

- *We administered a practice ELA in January in middle school*
- *This provided students with practice for their grade level test later and gave us valuable information to assess student writing, reading and listening to inform instruction going forward.*

K-12 Articulation

*We met as a K-12 ELA
Professional Learning
Community on Superintendent's
Conference Day in November
and again in March.*

Integrating Technology

- *Video conferencing, wikis and blogs, electronic portfolios are all on our horizon*

Setting Goals

- *Interdisciplinary connections, especially in areas such as research and note taking, is an important next step*



Questions?