

QUESTIONS

RESPONSES

50

50 responses

SUMMARY

INDIVIDUAL

Accepting responses

Quality of Professional Development Provided



What areas of the learning week were valuable for you? What would you like to see more of?

(50 responses)

Training that I can put to use right away I would like to see more team time

Press,
Top 20

Ixl,
usable information, time to explore the new information....not just filling the time with training.

The
Top 20 training was motivating and I really hope that we can move forward as a school to embed it into our culture. I loved the language that it uses and am excited about it!!

I
enjoyed the conversation with Chatfield teachers on writing. It definitely was eye opening to see where we were at and what we could start working towards. I also liked the Top 20 training because it hits on the social aspect of school and the learning environment that we create for our students. It brought to my attention that my attitude affects both my coworkers and students. I would definitely like to see more work on community building as teachers, and then continue time to work with our colleagues in teams to prepare for the year.

Practical,
useful information rather than theory.

The
time spent working with my team and sitting down to talk about how/ when to implement the new ideas or strategies from the morning of Press Training. Top 20 speaker Paul was wonderful. I could have spent more time with him! Can we get his friend Willow in to speak to our district staff..... I've heard wonderful things about her!

IXL
training was beneficial appreciate that the presenter shared the transcript with us. PRESS training was interesting and useful it just got to be a long day.

I
liked how it was scheduled with some mix of everything (learning time/classroom time). I appreciated that the Top 20 (social/emotional) was also included.

The
amount of work time was pretty good this year! Press training was great. Can be put into use.

Classroom
time

Tier
2 interventions

PRESS

I would like more Opportunities to discuss events/topics/ideas with the appropriate teams/grade levels.

What a positive message in the top 20 training - it was just what I needed to get back in the right frame of mind! Bring on the school year!

I really liked the top 20 training - the press training was a lot of information in a day but great information

Press had some good ideas.

Valuable to have conversations as a staff on big items like writing and grading

Top 20. The extra time in our rooms.

Preschool Teachers met with Bryce about Schoology. I liked meeting with him in our small group instead of a larger group presentation. I wish we would have had more time...my head is still spinning.

Having classroom teachers put students' names into their Lexia and Raz kids rosters was so nice. It will encourage more teachers to use these apps. When school starts they get so busy with everything. This is something that takes time. Taking time to learn about Press in one big chunk was so much more effective than if we would get a little here and there

Top 20! Such a good reminder. Follow up on Top 20. Refresher and staff working to put the top 20 model into action

Conversations with colleagues about big picture items like a writing plan and grading policies. I was glad that staff were allowed to opt out of training sessions for things we were already using, such as spelling city.

It was a nice balance of training and work time in our classrooms.

I had time to start planning in my STEM room for coding which is what i really needed :) Thank you for not making me sit in the meetings that did not apply.

Positive messages like the Top 20 speaker

I really enjoyed the top 20 training...positive attitude training is valuable!

I found the PRESS training really helpful to do before hand to start the year out. I also liked that CPI training was able to be built into workshop days so that it doesn't have to be held after school in the evenings after the year has started. I think this also worked well for the paras as many of them have different hours and supervision after school.

As ECCE faculty, would have liked to be able to attend technology trainings. We often have parents asking about the things that their older children are doing in school.

I would like to see more intervention workshops especially in reading.

Time in our rooms is valuable. I'd like to bring in speakers/presenters for the K-6 specialists. There are many professionals out there that have great presentations for us and it would be a good team building exercise as well.

It was nice to have so much time in our classroom!

Seeing any new updates on programs like IXL and Stora, although some trainings might have been long for some staff. Perhaps next year just a short refresher/updates for veteran staff and more information provided then for new staff or those who still want to see more. All OC staff conversations about important issues like grading, etc. were good to have - we don't often get the chance to have face to face discussions because most topics are done through email. Sometimes the direct interaction is important. Providing work time in the classrooms was appreciated and even the short flex time was a nice option.

I liked that for A-Z we had computers in front of us and were able to enter kids names, and actually see what to do instead of just being told what to do.
:)

Learning about interventions and strategies for behavior management were great!

FAST Training, which was impromptu in our building and late on week two was extremely valuable as it was something I WAS 100% going to be using immediately. I would love to have more information on A to Z, but from teachers who are using it or an actual A to Z rep VS. a tech person from our district who wasn't very enthusiastic, speaks quickly (often in a foreign "techie" language) and is easily side-tracked.

I love the training on PRESS. More PRESS, please! :)

PRESS

training was beneficial although I wished there had been more time to see individual interventions modeled. Top 20 training was phenomenal! Enjoyed the practical tips for changing "the line" across all environments in the school.

Getting

our students names into programs we are using. Having extra time in classrooms to get things together.

For

PRESS, I loved practicing interventions to see how they will look in our classroom. I just wish I could've been 2 hours of just that! The Lexia had good information, but only 150 licenses for OC means not all of us will be using it, so it seems a bit silly that everyone was at the training. I would like to see the morning filled with training and the afternoon filled with application time so we can actually incorporate the learning into our classrooms right away. I did appreciate the roster time to get my students set up on Spelling City, etc.

Having

time to set up the initial things on the computer that we normally don't have time to do with support staff available for trouble shooting.

Information

on the programs available for us to use with students was valuable. In the past we were given our usernames and passwords and didn't really know how the programs could be utilized.

I

appreciated the workshop Liann held for Oak Crest with a focus of clarification of important building tops and goal setting. I would appreciate more of this.

The

Press Training and Top 20 Training were absolutely wonderful! As much as the Press Training was overwhelming being a newer teacher, it still seems manageable in the classroom. I enjoyed the Writing Conversation because it got us all to think about that topic when we otherwise wouldn't have. It got the wheels turning for future improvements.

Thank

you for time in our classroom!

I

enjoyed the Top 20 training most of all as it is a step towards creating a more positive culture in our classrooms, schools, and our district. It will also benefit our own families and our own individual lives.

It
was great info and well organized.

The
Above the Line/Below the Line presentation went very well. Would love to see more work time in our classrooms. I felt bad, like I should've been doing something else when I did have work time in the classroom.

I'm
a specialist, so I wasn't a part of the reading/writing training. I liked having the extra time at the beginning of the year to get organized - very valuable to me.

It
was very valuable to include time to add our students to ixl, AtoZ and Schoology. I'd like built in time for grade level meetings.

What areas of the learning week did not work for you? What changes would you like to see?

(50 responses)

If
I'm going to sit in trainings, having log in info would be helpful. Missing trainings because things were double scheduled

Lexia-I
felt that we didn't learn how to use it or it's purpose...plus, OC didn't have accounts, so it made it more difficult to understand

My
brain was full, too much information in a short amount of time, unable to process it!

For
me, I learn by doing, so the web based trainings did not work for me; they were to basic level. I would have liked time to sit with the group, so we are intentional, and "play" with Storia or Spelling City.

Though
PRESS training was informational, I think that it could have been shortened up. It was a lot on things that we (should be) doing as teachers and it would have been nice to give us half a day to talk amongst our teams/coworkers to plan to implement some of that training.

Focus
is on getting started with kids in the near future and a number of these ideas

did not help us in the short term. Not a great time to see the big picture.

Afternoon of press training was geared towards phonics when most of us at OC are beyond that stage in teaching reading strategies. Also, Lexia wasn't well planned when none of the OC even knows what the program is nor were we able to sign in to take a look. Spelling City was not worth my time for what I needed.

Disappointed in the Spelling City presentation. Very unorganized. Perhaps it should have been held in a computer lab so everyone had access to a desktop so that we could have actually done something with the program.

I'm still curious about what it will be like without having days to "break up" the school year for students and staff. Only solution is to try it out.

A breakfast or doughnuts or something on the first day to be introduced to new staff right away.

Accurately identifying which workshops are appropriate for the variety of teachers to attend.

More time to practice and use tech on new areas.

It was a lot of training and there isn't time built into the school year to stop and reflect with colleagues on how things are going.

I would like to see some sort of math training in the future. Every presentation involved reading or writing.

Lexi training was tricky without specific questions and access to the technology. Could have maybe been split chatfield and oak crest to facilitate that. I'd also be curious to know if the work times between PD items were planned in for processing time, or if it was unintentional. Personally, I'd prefer the training to be more compacted and the work time to be another compacted chunk. It was difficult to get started on something when the block of time was short.

More time to meet with grade levels It was a lot of information to take in before the start of the school year - good information but just a lot

I really would like to see the grade level meeting with sped and specialists moved to the first or second day.

Couple

specific apps it would have been beneficial to see actual student data and how it relates

I

thought the week went well!

Early

Childhood is not included in any of the other trainings throughout the week. I did, however, appreciate the extra time in my classroom. It is very difficult to prep a room for 3 groups of students. The time is needed and appreciated.

I

do wonder if we should make sure to introduce new faculty on the first day...

I

don't like front stacking the PD days. I think they are more beneficial spread out through the year.

The

PRESS training was not as valuable as I had hoped. It did not need to be 6 hours long.

Front

loading the days and having the trainings in the mornings and work time in the afternoon works best for me...afternoons are harder to stay focused and fresh.

I

thought it was great! I loved the "time" for STEM to "work" upfront to start the year. I was able to get the lunch count for the school all set up as well :)

Not

enough training provided for other subject areas other than reading

Lots

of meetings...not as much preparing room time...could use more free time

The

Lexia training did not seem beneficial as Oak Crest didn't know what kids would be using it and couldn't get into it to see how it works.

More

paid time in classroom, especially since we got moved around so much this year. I have to pay for child care if I'm here, and can't afford to do so if I'm not getting paid.

Some of the app training was beneficial, but I think being able to choose which ones teachers want to go to would be better.

The iPad management could have been expressed in an email with an optional in-person meeting for those who felt they needed it.

A lot of conversation but not a lot of direction or decisions made.

The programs/trainings were valuable; it is a lot to take in during this back to school time though. Maybe a modified version of this frontload workshop would be good. It may also be good to ask these questions at the end of the year in planning for next year. It would be interesting to see how staff feel after going through the school year with little PD workshops during the year. Are some workshops valuable to have once we're settled in? Sometimes that mental break from classrooms is valuable.

Hoping for a follow up on the writing conversation...seem to leave still not knowing what suppose to do.

It would have been nice to have the grade level meetings during the first week or at least on Monday of the second week so teachers can plan accordingly after learning about students in their class.

Writing conversations was not a valuable use of my time, as it left me with more questions than answers and I didn't move forward or get anything out of it personally. The instructor for PRESS training was knowledgeable and very friendly, however sitting for long periods of time and listening to someone talk is not my learning style, therefore I did not gain much from the training. It was too much information at one time and not enough practical, hands on opportunities. I would have loved to have her actually show us a couple interventions right there on the spot.. not just a video of a random teacher. By her showing us an intervention on the spot we could stop and ask her questions along the way, it would have also made it more personal/relate-able.

Mini synopsis of training and location on chart.

Classroom technology sessions (e.g., Storia) were a bit frustrating due to not receiving passwords/log-in information ahead of time. It left me feeling unprepared and I didn't get the most out of the sessions.

More choice of areas that you want to go learn about. Not making us go to all areas...example Lexia or A to Z if we already use the program in our classroom. Having choice of areas to go to would be ideal.

PRESS

was way too long. It would've been awesome to have everyone buddy up and practice an intervention, then show the entire group. It would've been nice to see interventions for each of those categories. We had 6 hours of training and a huge book to look at, but it's going to take a lot of extra time for us to actually use those interventions (since we'll have to read up on them and pick one that's a good fit for what our purpose is). I heard that the IXL training was helpful, but because it was scheduled during lunch I did not attend. I needed a mental break from all the learning.

There were some trainings that site and who specifically needs to attend were unclear.

Attending meetings that don't apply to what I do.

I was a bit overwhelmed with the amount of new trainings we had. I realize they were all important, but it was a bit too much for me to tackle all in a few days.

The Lexia training wasn't very beneficial to me. It will probably be better for me to just talk to a colleague to learn more about that.

The free lunch with the snap fitness guys was a waste of time. Did enjoy the free lunch!

There was a great deal of information presented and given to us in a short amount of time. It felt a bit overwhelming and difficult to process while prepping classrooms, prepping for conferences, and planning lessons. I would suggest having our grade level student information meetings earlier than later. Some information I received yesterday would have been helpful as I prepared my classroom and my conference information for families.

The writing conversation could have been done in a survey! I didn't feel like it was very valuable.

The Spelling City, Press, and SNAP Fitness, just didn't do it for me. I know it's not the intention, but going to some of these workshops felt like we were there to keep us busy, when we could've used our time more productively.

No changes.

The Lexia meeting was not meant for a K- 6 audience. K-2 had already met last year

to learn the content and there were only licenses for 150 students at Oak Crest, so not all 3-6 needed to be there. It made it hard to meet the needs of all of us when half of us already knew the information and half of us will never need to use the information. It would have been nice to have all new staff introduced at the all district breakfast so we could see all the new staff.

Any additional comments. (27 responses)

X

Spreading

out professional development so we can dig into it, now I am worried about getting my classroom ready for school. Some initiatives changed what I planned this summer for the new school year.

The

SNAP Fitness training seemed quite irrelevant to have during a teacher workshop.

I

appreciate the time and effort put into planning all the different presentations. Thank You! It was a lot of information to absorb however.

Snap

fitness presentation seemed like it could have been a good idea, but the non personal trainer presenter could have made his part much shorter or we could have heard only from Chris (I think that was his name...the person who works there)

Some

of the trainings would be more appropriate in November.

Thank

you to the planners, PD is a tricky thing to plan!

I

would encourage Dr Lager to give his welcome on the first day. I appreciated being told students are more than a test score.

A

lot got accomplished and the days went great...but I am going to miss workshop days sprinkled into our year.

We need PD days throughout the year to come back around and analyze our work, what to improve. Ect

Please put the grade level student info meetings earlier in the schedule next year to allow time for student conversations to happen. Thank you for planning K-6 separate from the high school. It gave us what we needed and helped avoid feeling like our time was not valued.

Thanks for coordinating all of this for us!

Had I not been given the time to work, but instead been sitting in meetings, I might not have responded the way I did :)

A lot of the trainings would've been more beneficial to have at the end of the previous school year so we had time over the summer to put things together and plan out how to use them. It's too much all at once at the beginning of the year.

It would be nice to have paras working with teachers when the teachers aren't in meetings. We could have used some of that classroom work time to go over student's needs, classroom expectations, etc.

It's hard to say if front loading will be beneficial at this point. Come February/March I may be wishing we had a PD day to re-energize my teaching!

Appreciated that still had time to work in room and have team meetings.

Though I enjoyed many of the presentations I do feel that it's too much at once and that teachers don't have enough time to digest the new information before more information was given to them. The full day of PRESS training was great but I feel like it already has likely been put on the back burner for many teachers since we had many trainings since then. I think if they were spread out again like they used to be the new resources would have a better chance of being utilized and implemented.

I loved the ample classroom/team time (as that is what's really most valuable and appreciated by teachers)! I also liked having two weeks before kids showed up and I know I, along with most, will LOVE being done a week earlier. More trainings on practical things we can use right away would be tremendous. More hands-on trainings vs. sit and listen trainings would also be wonderful!

Overall,
I appreciated the variety of PD offerings available and learned a great deal from the presentations!

I
did not like having 6 days at the beginning of the year. It was way too much information to process at once and I have been going home more exhausted than I have ever been during workshops. We had several pieces thrown at us and no time to actually make applications in our classroom, because we've had team meetings, prep for back to school conferences and getting our room set up. I would rather learn some big pieces at the beginning of the year, then give us some tools throughout the year to support that and add to our resources. I know that reading needs to be a focus, but I certainly hope that we look at some math and science/social pieces in the future too.

Having
multiple agendas coming out made it confusing on which one to use

Thank
you for the new learning opportunities and for starting the year out on a positive note. I feel a sense of accomplishment and motivation.

I
also enjoyed the Top 20 Training because I am able to bring it into my personal life! Being my first year here, I appreciated the extra week and work time at school with the other teachers. However, I do appreciate PD days during the school year to break things up.

Over
all I was happier than I thought I was going to be after the 6 days. Most of the meetings I was in were good to have and helped. The time in my room was much needed.

I
have enjoyed the presentations in other towns in the past, but it was SO NICE to stay in Belle Plaine all 6 days.

I
realize this set up is to keep a spring break, and be out of school early. I was fine with how it was before, and I'm fine with the new set up. Easily pleased. :)

Front loading the professional development at the beginning of the school year has provided me tools to implement ideas in my practice for the 2016-17 school year.

(50 responses)

