

Pleasantdale School District 107

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In preparation for the 2015-16 school year, differentiation and individualization are kept at the forefront while planning for professional development (PD). In order to prepare for a smooth flow to the school year, some alterations to the PD delivery method have been streamlined for effectiveness. The purpose for revising the process is to provide each staff member with a PD path that is unique to his/her position, thereby improving our teaching and the overall student experience.

In response to staff input, the PD plan will hold a consistent focus, yet allow the flexibility for groups with differing needs to focus on concepts specific to their needs. We will achieve this goal via a series of unique PD pathways to provide staff members with an experience specifically tailored to their positions. Creating these pathways will be accomplished through open communication and collaboration.

Based on staff feedback, we need to focus on both the content and the delivery of our professional development. To that end, PD will be delivered in several ways, including using time at after-school meetings on the second Wednesday of each month. Additionally, we will design a system of extended PD via one-half day of “release” time per trimester for groups to work on classroom implementation of their focus area. Throughout the course of the school year, we will revisit concepts addressed covered during PD, allowing participants to experience intertwining ideas.

Depending on the composition of each group, the areas of focus include Next Generation Science Standards, the new Illinois Learning Standards for Physical Development and Health, the increased incorporation of writing within the Common Core State Standards, math intervention, and exploring the new Core Arts Standards, to name a few.

Additionally, Curriculum Council will take on a new look. While the name will remain the same, the purpose of the group will be revised. Participants will undertake an in-depth review of one focus area at a time. The first point that will be addressed by the Curriculum Council is math, which will undergo a thorough curriculum review. This will allow us to refine our practices in order to advance student engagement and achievement. As time progresses and desired outcomes are attained, we will plan additional areas of focus.

Presentation takeaways:

- Format adjustments were developed as a result of administration and TAP discussion.
- PD paths are established with staff input.
- There may be mini PD paths that occur to either revisit or expose/introduce additional material while continuing the primary focus.
- Curriculum Council has been restructured to better meet our district’s needs.

Mission

Ensure that each student is a passionate learner empowered with the Academic and social skills to responsibly choose and excel in life pursuits.