

Assistant Superintendent Report to the Board

February 2017

Site Visits

Homecroft
Piedmont
Lakewood

Denfeld High School Student for a day!

I shadowed a 10th grade Denfeld High School student on January 31, 2017. The purpose of my visit was to gain insight into what a student experiences in our schools on a daily basis. This experience proved to be more valuable than just a classroom walk through as I was able to acquire a more complete picture through the eyes of a student about their educational experience. This is my third opportunity to shadow a student. Last year I shadowed a student at Lincoln Park and Myers-Wilkins. What did I learn?

- I was able to experience a WIN period, read Shakespeare, learn about history from the 1950's, and listen as other students read from a Spanish story (no hablo español).
- A great takeaway was in math class. The math teacher checked in with all students regarding their daily assignments. Students had clear learning targets and there were clear expectations for the lesson that day.
- Kids sit a lot! We need to incorporate more opportunity to get up in classrooms as part of the learning process.
- We need to look for more ways to engage students in discussion about their learning. Student discussion fosters deeper learning as well as allows the teacher to check for understanding.

Thank you to the staff and students at DHS for this opportunity!

Principal and Teacher Evaluation

We were able to provide training on February 6 and 7 to teachers in an effort to implement peer review. Peer review is a required component of the teacher evaluation statute and is a part of the ISD 709 Teacher Development and Evaluation Plan (TDE). The TDE states that teachers must take part in peer observation as part of the professional growth. The training introduced staff on how to conduct an observation in a way that allows both the observer and the one observed to learn from the experience. The feedback from the session was very good. We were able to pay for the training with revenue we received from the state to implement the teacher evaluation process.

I am currently conducting mid-year reviews with principals. The purpose of this mid-year check to review professional growth plans and determine if progress toward goals is sufficient.