

Professional Learning Communities

York High School
2016-2017 School Year

York High School's Academic Goals 2016-2017

- ▶ All students will grow by at least 30% on state standardized assessment from 8th grade to the end of junior year (using ACT counterparts to SAT scores).
- ▶ There will be an increase in students accessing college level experiences, career programs, internships, and / or courses at York that will prepare them for life beyond graduation.

What are Professional Learning Communities?


Professional Learning Communities

The term *professional learning community* describes a collegial group of administrators and school staff who are united in their commitment to student learning.

Hord (1997b) notes, "As an organizational arrangement, the professional learning community is seen as a powerful staff-development approach and a potent strategy for school change and improvement."



Characteristics of professional learning communities

1. Shared values and vision
 2. Collective responsibility for pupil's learning
 3. Reflective enquiry
 4. Collaboration focused on learning
 5. Group as well as individual professional learning
 6. Openness, networks and partnerships
 7. Inclusive membership
 8. Mutual trust, respect and support
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Essential Questions of a PLC

- ▶ 1. What do we expect our students to learn?
- ▶ 2. How will we know they are learning?
- ▶ 3. How will we respond when they don't learn?
- ▶ 4. How will we respond if they already know it?

PLC Norms

- ▶ TIME: Will we start and end on time?
- ▶ LISTENING: How will we encourage listening? How will we discourage interrupting?
- ▶ CONFIDENTIALITY: Will what we say in the meeting be held in confidence? What can be said to others after the meeting?
- ▶ DECISION MAKING: How will we make decisions? How will we deal with conflicts? How will we deal with differences of opinion?
- ▶ PARTICIPATION: How will we encourage everyone's participation?
- ▶ EXPECTATIONS: What do we expect from each other?

The Impact on Students

- ▶ Student- driven
- ▶ Data-driven
- ▶ Data informs instruction
- ▶ Skills, Critical Thinking, and Interdisciplinary connections become the focus
- ▶ Assessments are re-evaluated based on data analyzed by the team
- ▶ Instruction shifts to scoped and sequenced, skill driven experiences preparing students for all curricular experiences regardless of content

PLC Leader Presenters

- ▶ Lauren Yun- Science
- ▶ Ben Carillo- English