

SESSIONS SUPPORTING THE GOAL OF SCHOOL COMPLETION AND TRANSITIONS

Implementing Innovative and Effective Assessment Strategies at the Middle and Secondary level

Many staff in our district have attended workshops in Portland, Oregon on Assessment and grading practices. Others have attended the series of web casts on Assessment for Learning. If you have, or if you want to explore your assessment and grading practices, you might be interested in attending this series which will explore ideas of using non-traditional assessment strategies such as multiple rewrites, no zeros, and linking the PLO's. This will be a 'hands-on' series. At each of the 4 sessions you will have an opportunity to: work with your curriculum; work on assessment ideas for your classes; try ideas with your students and then bring the results back to the group. Whether you are considering a small change or something more comprehensive, this will be a forum for you to gather ideas and contribute new ones.

If you are interested, it will involve:

1. attending 4 sessions: 2 after school, 2 during school with Flex fund release
2. bringing your work to each session so that you can plan assessments or follow ups

Session dates:

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday, Oct. 1	8:00-1:00	Parkway Annex
Wednesday, Nov. 5	3:45-5:30	Parkway Annex
Wednesday, Jan. 7	3:45-5:30	Parkway Annex
Wednesday, March 4	8:00-1:00	Parkway Annex

It would be useful for staff attending these sessions to also attend the series of webcast sessions on Assessment for Learning at 3:30 on Oct. 1, January 14, and April 1.

For more information contact: Myron Dueck at mdueck@summer.com or Judith King at jking@summer.com

To register please contact Judith King at jking@summer.com

Limit: 20 people

SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW: Alternate Assessment Practices in the Middle and Secondary Classroom

Last year a group of staff from middle and secondary schools explored the question *If middle and high school students are permitted and encouraged to demonstrate their knowledge in alternative ways, how will it impact their learning and their knowledge about themselves as learners?* We found some very interesting results. Some being:

1. boys tended to do better overall when given choices in how they represent their knowledge
2. many students who had been seen as 'struggling', no longer struggled when given options to show what they know
3. students overall said they appreciated having choices, and that it made the course more active and interesting.
4. students stated they learned more of the content and were more actively involved in learning when given choices and options
5. students who had traditionally done well in a course, continued to do well. Students who had traditionally not done as well, improved

This year we would like to pursue the same question and are inviting anyone else interested to please join us. This project involves:

1. attending 8 session throughout the year (*4 meetings with our small group of middle and secondary staff. Four after school sessions with the larger group in our district as part of the Network of Performance Based Schools*)
2. doing some classroom research in one or more of your classes
3. learning from each other, having great conversations, and some fun.

Session Dates:

Date	Time	Location	purpose	group
Thursday, October 9	8:00-1:00 (with Flex fund release)	Parkway Annex	-understanding of research project/ inquiry question/ performance standards -hear about inquiries from 2007/08	Small group of 10-20 middle and secondary staff
Thursday, October 30	3:30-4:45	Parkway Library	-understanding of the B.C. Network of Performance Based Schools	All staff involved in the Network of Performance Based Schools in Okanagan Skaha
Thursday, November 27	3:30-5:30	Parkway Annex	-create plan for project for the year	Small group
Thursday, January 29	3:30-5:30	Parkway Annex	-update plan and way of assessing	Small group
Thursday, February 12	3:30-4:45	Parkway Library	-meet with small group and hear from larger group	Network of Performance Based Schools
Wednesday, April 15	3:30-4:45	Parkway Library	-meet with small group and hear from larger group	Network of Performance Based Schools
Thursday, May 7	8:00-1:00 (with Flex fund release)	Parkway Annex	-look at research findings, create posters for celebration	Small Group
Thursday, May 28	3:30-6:00	TBA	Celebration	All network groups in the Thompson-Okanagan

If interested, please contact Judith King at jking@summer.com or Andrea DeVito at adevito@summer.com, or talk to one of the other staff involved in the project last year: Jeff Fitton, Wayne Kuechle, Naryn Searcy, Kim Stewart, Myron Dueck, Kathleen Robertson, Holly Colquhoun, Tom Schimmer, Brian Celli.

To register please contact Judith King at jking@summer.com

Limit: 20 people

Transition from Middle to Secondary

A series of 3 meetings are planned for secondary transition teachers and school based vice principals or principals at middle and secondary levels. The purpose of the meetings is to share ideas of what is working and not working in helping students transition from middle to secondary schools. This past year at our meetings, we looked at school based activities and programs that were held at each school, as well as looking at ways to gather feedback from students in grade 9 in order to see if what we were implementing was indeed assisting them in feeling comfortable and successful in their new school.

Session dates: Mondays: November 3, February 2, April 20, 3:45-5:15

Location: Parkway Annex

If interested, please contact Judith King at jking@summer.com

School Completion Workgroup: Creating Hope – One Student at a Time

All interested staff are invited to attend our third workgroup session in School Completion. These workgroup sessions are focused on building hope for all students. As a group we are looking at the district goal of School Completion and discussing and designing ways of assisting all students in successfully completing school.

First workgroup session: Monday, September 29, 3:45 - 6:00

Location: TBA

For more information please contact: Judith King, jking@summer.com or Andrea DeVito, adevito@summer.com