



# Collegial Circle Final Report

(To be filled out by Contact Person)

Contact Person: Melanie Ward

School: Mendon Center Elementary

Members: Kim Hammaker  
Peg Glisson  
Jake Glasgow  
Lee Doohan  
Sue Ann McGrath  
Jennifer Villareale  
Melanie Ward  
Jeff Cimmerer

**Anticipated Objectives:** When we began our work as a Collegial Circle, one of our main goals was to help the fifth grade teachers become familiar and comfortable with the PC laptops that we had just brought into the fifth grade. We also were aiming to help the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade teams in the transition from a computer lab based approach to a mobile lap top cart approach to instruction. Our ultimate goal was to help intermediate staff utilize and effectively use instructional technology - including laptops, SmartBoards, and Senteo clickers - into their instruction. We hoped to design new higher-level thinking projects that used instructional technology for better and more meaningful learning experiences for our students.

**Beginning Date:** September, 2008

**Ending Date:** June, 2009

**# of hours:** 10.5

**Attachments:** Please attach copies of the following to this cover sheet

- Collegial Circle Attendance Log
- Collegial Circle Meeting Log – meeting minutes
- Log of Strategy/Strategies Implemented
- Samples of implementation strategies or student work samples if applicable
- Collegial Circle Reflection Sheets (each member fills one out)

**Final Reflections:**

1. Was the outcome/goal of this Collegial Circle met? Explain.

Our fifth grade teachers, and students, made the transition to the PC laptops very easily and quickly. We spent some time at our first meeting looking at some of the features of the PCs that were different from Macs, and discussed the ease of use of the PC laptop cart. After that, there was no need for continued focus on the change from Macs to PCs as there were no issues.

We invited Tina Jarvis to present to the Collegial Circle on SmartBoard use as two of our members were among the four teachers in the building to have newly installed SmartBoards. We also spent time at a later meeting sharing the ways in which SmartBoards, and the Notebook software resources, were being utilized. Members of the Collegial Circle demonstrated and shared some lessons they had developed utilizing these resources.

As a group, we read and discussed several articles pertaining to instructional technology. The focus of these discussions was around the purposeful use of technology to support student learning, rather than using technology just for the sake of using it, or for adding "bells and whistles" to the program. As we discussed learning opportunities for students, we continued to bring ourselves back to the question of the bigger purpose of the technology tools. While this question was critical to our work and our thinking, it also prevented us from creating a large number of "technology lessons"; the work was more subtle than that.

## 2. How did the Collegial Circle assess whether the outcome was met?

Although this particular Collegial Circle did not result in a bank of lessons for others to reference, or new rubrics for assessing student work, or many other tangible "products", there is no question in my mind that the outcome was met. As a group, we became a sounding board for each other's ideas about using technology with students. Members of the group branched off and created blogs and forums for students to use as part of both ELA and math instruction. One of the fifth grade teachers worked with the librarian to establish and epals connection with a school in Mexico as part of the Latin America Social Studies unit. Discussions around the table triggered teachers to think about things differently and to try new "tricks" with their students on the computers. The meetings became a risk free environment where teachers were comfortable sharing, learning, and exploring new ideas.

As the first elementary school to switch over to PC use for some of our students, we also became a proving ground for the other schools in terms of the ease of use and seamlessness of the transition. For our fifth grade students, laptops became an integrated learning tool throughout much of the day. No longer were we locked into bringing students to computers at a time dictated by the master schedule. We have moved to bring laptops to the students when it makes instructional sense for them to be using computers for writing, research, or the creation of presentations and portfolios. As a result of the success we had with our fifth graders this year, Mendon Center will be moving fourth graders over to PCs for the 2009-2010 school year. A total of four PC laptop/netbook carts will be in the building, allowing much greater access to this resource for all of our students.

Finally, based on the work our students were doing this year with Microsoft's Office 2007 package, we were invited by Microsoft to participate in a case study. On Thursday and Friday, June 4 and 5, a film crew from Filmateria Studios was onsite capturing video footage for the video case study. Students and staff members were interviewed, and student work was highlighted. This will be followed by a written case study as well. We are excited to see the results of this work when we get it back from Microsoft and will share it with the TC Policy Board as tangible evidence of the work of the 4/5 Instructional Technology Collegial Circle.