

Collegial Circle Final Report

Please complete all information on this form. After it is complete, send it to the Teacher Center along with other supporting documentation. Electronic copies are preferred whenever possible.

COLLEGIAL CIRCLE INFORMATION

Title of Circle: Grading procedures—applying new ideas, year 2 Standards Area: English
Facilitator: Sarah Nazarian School(s): MHS
Beginning Date: 10-18-17 Ending Date: 4-25-18 # of Hours: 6

Please submit copies of the following to this report:

- ✓ Collegial Circle Attendance Log
- ✓ Collegial Circle Meeting Log
- ✓ Samples of strategies implemented, materials created, or student work samples where applicable
- ✓ Collegial Circle Reflection Sheets - completed by each participant

COLLEGIAL CIRCLE DESCRIPTION

What was the anticipated goal(s) of this Collegial Circle?

We hoped to continue to discuss new/changed grading practices with our classes. There had been no grading "policy," but the philosophy suggested concepts and changing to traditional grading practices. Through discussion and study, we hoped to keep finding ways to abide by the new philosophy and implement new/changed grading practices.

What grade level(s) and or subject area(s) will benefit from this Circle?

9-12, English

FINAL REFLECTIONS

Was the goal of your Collegial Circle met? Please explain.

We actually feel really good about our progress this year. Last year, we talked a lot about the little changes we were making or hoping to make. This year, a lot of us used a system of incompletes rather than zeros, started working with admin and more to stress the academic behavior aspect of the philosophy, and implemented a 5 point rubric. Further, we're excited to see new policies emerge from the district philosophy, which is really interesting to us as we've implemented and discussed these policy aspects of the philosophy already. A lot of the discussion we've had and the ideas we've tried will now be further supported by new district policy.

Also, this year we've seen an increased presence of school and district surrounding grading philosophy--for a couple years, it felt like new ideas and initiatives might not come about. But this year has seen real growth and change, and we feel ready to step up and maybe work with colleagues as they try new things.

How did the members of this Collegial Circle assess whether the outcome was met? What evidence was utilized to assess your progress?

When 5 point rubrics and check lists were used, the results were shared with the group--what worked, what didn't, what needed to be tweaked...

We discussed thoroughly the use of incompletes in place of zeros and best practices in working with students, parents, and admins to make the practice effective. There's been a huge increase in admin participation and great support, which has made our message more cohesive.

When we tried new things, we came back to the group to review--pros and cons. People have shared and started using the rubric more--and a shared checklist that helps work toward that rubric.

How did your work impact teaching and learning? [include student work samples, lesson plans, peer reviews, etc.]

Five point rubric is attached. Most of our work with it came in the form of conversations about student perception and results. Also, members worked with IC and Cathy Kaufmann to make it more effective.

Showing the results of INC use in place of zeros would have to come in the form of admin reports mostly, but we've seen a change in understanding about expectations to complete work rather than blow off an assignment, take the zero, and drop the grade. Instead, kids are seeing the reason for completing work and getting that same message from administrators--which is really powerful.

Did your work align with the Level of Evaluation you identified in your proposal? Please explain.

I think we did achieve our goal--we really did see student learning outcomes this year, which was exciting and encouraging. Last year, we spoke more philosophically--as did the district--but this year we put more in place and really saw results in our practice and the kids' understanding, as well.

There's obviously a lot more work to be done, but with each year and more implementation of policies, we'll definitely make even more progress--and things that seem new now will become common practice for kids--and their parents. We've actually found parents particularly understanding of the INC process and appreciative of the fact that our goal is to have kids complete work--not just get a zero that wrecks their grade. That's been somewhat heartening, as well.

Please included any additional comments you would like to share with the Collegial Circle Committee. This may include unanticipated outcomes, next steps, new learning, etc.

We talked about whether we'd like to continue with our work next year--and we're not sure. With the district moving forward and making philosophy onto policy, maybe we just focus on what the district has put in to place and see where it goes from there.

We've decided to talk over the summer and decide what our best course of action is.