



Collegial Circle Final Report

Please type in the information on this form, print it and send it to the Teacher Center along with the Collegial Circle copies in the check list below. Also, attach it to an email to Catherine Thomas to share in the Teacher Center's online Collegial Circle Archive. Thank you for being a part in the effort to improve teaching and learning for our students.

COLLEGIAL CIRCLE INFORMATION

Title of Circle: Project Based Learning Standards Area: Science, ELA, math, social studies

Facilitator: Donna Nichols School(s): MCE, TR

Beginning Date: 08/2014 Ending Date: 05/05/14 # of Hours: 12

Participants (list): _____

Please attach copies of the following to this report:

- ✓ Collegial Circle Attendance Log (required for payment)
- ✓ Collegial Circle Meeting Log
- ✓ Log of Strategies Implemented
- ✓ Samples of implementation strategies or student work samples if applicable
- ✓ Collegial Circle Reflection Sheets (each member fills one out)

COLLEGIAL CIRCLE DESCRIPTION

(Type your answer in the grey box below the question. The size of the box will adjust to the length of your answer.)

What were the anticipated objectives of this Circle?

Our objective was to study project based learning and try to develop and facilitate specifically a 3rd grade project and possibly a Kindergarten and 1st grade project.

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

All core subject areas in a 3rd grade, Kindergarten and 1st grade classroom.

FINAL REFLECTIONS

(Type your answer in the grey box below the question.)

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

We feel we met the goal of this collegial circle. Our original plan of a gardening project for 3rd grade ended up being revised and refined as we worked out the problems and issues we encountered. At one point we did become discouraged as the student response to the launch and the driving questions were less enthusiastic than we expected. We realized we had tried to go "too big" on our first time attempt to truly complete a PBL. Our structures were not amenable to this type of teaching and learning. Schedules often interfered; resources were not easy to access. Our first grade collegial circle member dropped out of the circle due to time constraints. Collegial circle members were feeling a little uncomfortable with the amount of time this might take and the possibility it might not work. Student questions and interests were not quite what we had anticipated. However we stuck it out, read articles about project based learning, used the BIE book, participated in Google + forums with BIE experts and figured out ways to revise the projects, while continuing to focus on the standards through the projects. We were able to complete a Kindergarten project and have ideas for extending this project to other grade levels. We hope to try this revised project with both 3rd grade and 5th grade science students before the end of the year.

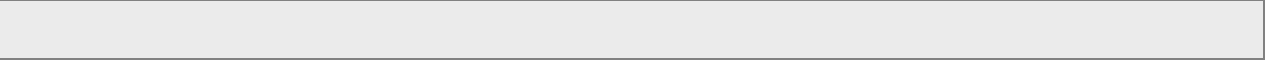
How did the Collegial Circle assess whether the outcome was met?

We have pictures reflections and short video clips of engaged students reflecting in their learning. We were able to show students real life applications of the concepts we were teaching.

How did your work impact teaching/learning? Include student work samples, lesson plans, peer reviews, etc.

We have included some examples of student work, student reflections and pictures of students as they participated in the PBL. Kristin's PBL is still in progress. We hope to have videos of some of the work Kristin's class is continuing. We also plan to complete the curriculum piece of this project on June 2nd by documenting our work in NYLearns, by documenting our process and things to consider, linking to our specific projects.

Additional pictures are available; we did not want to print everything!



Comments/additional information to share.

This was a real learning experience for all of us. Our conversations were open, honest and based on theory and experiences.