Montgomery County Early College

BOARD PRESENTATION: VIRTUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

FEBRUARY 8, 2021

Virtual Professional Development

Teachers wanted an opportunity to share strategies to improve virtual learning.

Teachers were seeking ways to provide an engaging and rigorous remote learning environment for all students.

In the past, MCEC found teacher learning walks and the reflective discourse to be very valuable

Sought to adapt teacher learning walks to the remote learning environment.



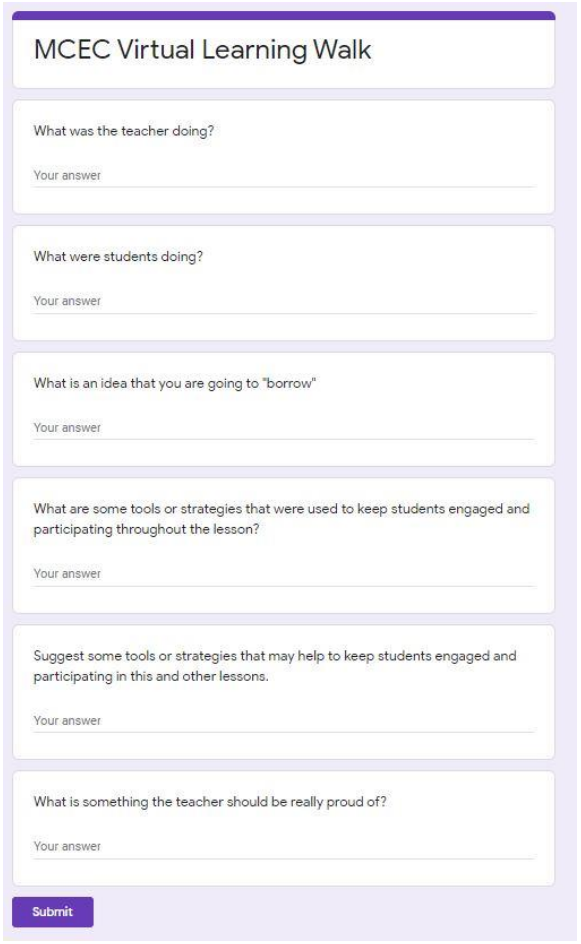
Planning for Virtual Professional Development

Reviewed education literature on how learning walks can be utilized during remote learning.

Worked with Susan Read (Digital Learning Coach) and MCEC staff to refine the learning walk process.

Designed a feedback tool for teachers to share positive reflections, feedback, and insights.

Asked for staff volunteers.



MCEC Virtual Learning Walk

What was the teacher doing?

Your answer

What were students doing?

Your answer

What is an idea that you are going to "borrow"

Your answer

What are some tools or strategies that were used to keep students engaged and participating throughout the lesson?

Your answer

Suggest some tools or strategies that may help to keep students engaged and participating in this and other lessons.

Your answer

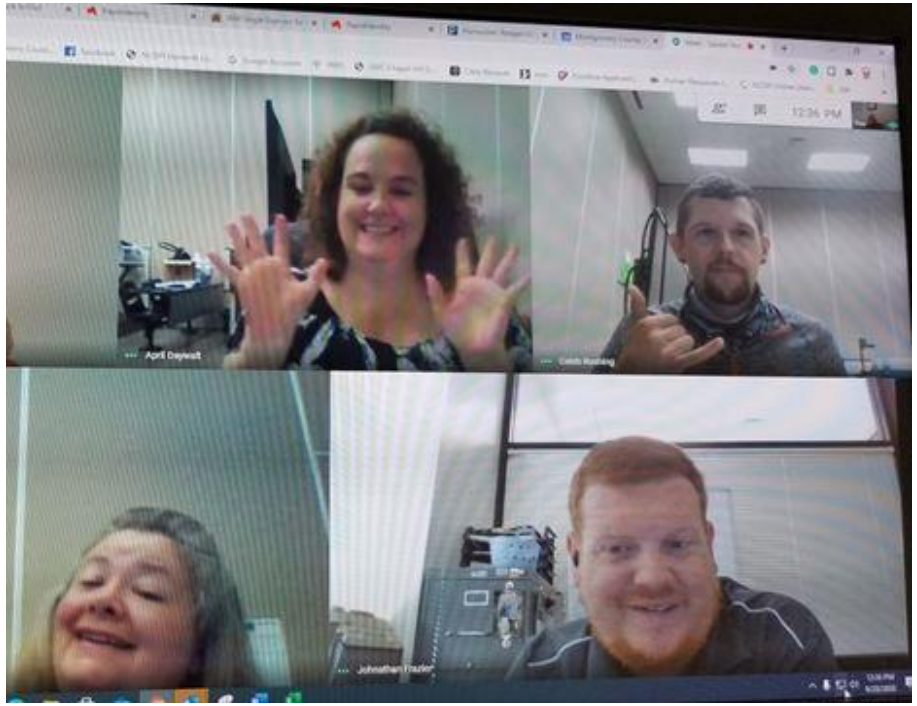
What is something the teacher should be really proud of?

Your answer

Submit

MCEC Virtual Learning Walk Process

1. A teacher volunteers to share classroom
2. Dr. Seawell sends an email inviting teachers to join a class.
3. Dr. Seawell joins class meet and shares screen via Zoom with staff members. This limits student disruptions and permits teachers to social distance.
4. Teachers will observe for 5 – 10 minutes and then pause to complete the feedback document.
5. Observers will complete Feedback Form and observers will chat about what they saw.
6. Feedback form is shared with teacher volunteer.

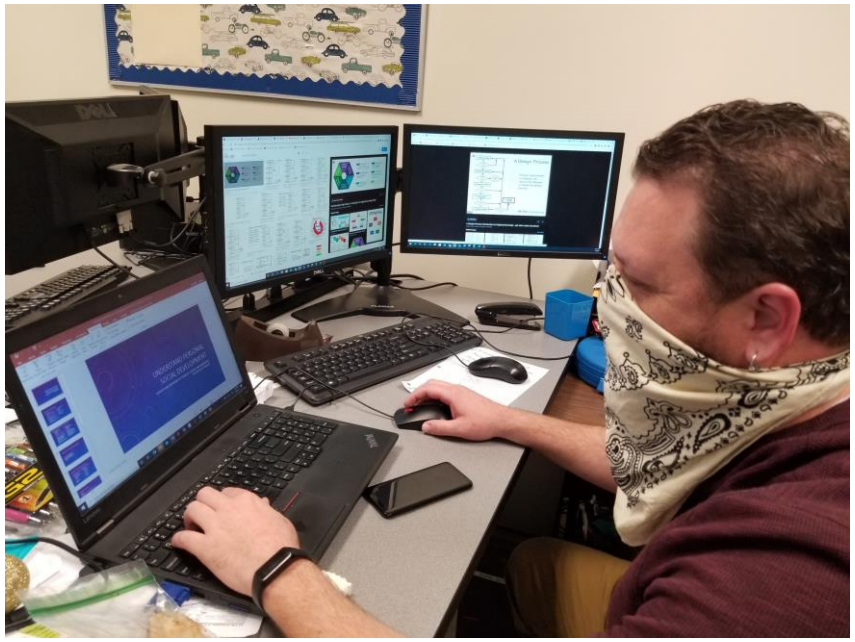


Outcomes

Teachers continue to volunteer to get feedback on lessons and share ideas.

Over the year the process has adapted based on the type of virtual classes being shared.

Types of MCEC Learning Walks
Synchronous Class
Asynchronous Class
Small Group Tutoring
Overview of Project
Teacher Facilitated



Sample Learning Walk Feedback

From Latin I Learning Walk –

What is an idea that you are going to "borrow:“

- *I love how you got the students actively engaged. They were quick to volunteer- willing to make mistakes.*
- *Using the chat as well as verbal responses.*

What are some tools or strategies that were used to keep students engaged and participating throughout the lesson?

- *Consistency. Clearly, you have set up a routine that the students are familiar with at this point, encouraging the students to actively engage because they knew what to expect.*
- *You were constantly praising students. Students like to be praised so this helps them stay engaged.*

What is something the teacher should be really proud of?

- *You were very encouraging! When they didn't pronounce something correctly, you reminded then to sound it out. They knew it was ok to need help and clearly you have set a supportive environment to encourage several DIFFERENT types of students to actively engage.*
- *I like the way you differentiated for students without students realizing.*



Impact on Student Achievement and Engagement

- ✓Navigate new platforms
  - Finding what works best for our students
- ✓Student mastery of technology tools
  - Email
  - Canvas
  - Google Docs
  - Google Sheets
  - Collaboration widgets
- ✓Improve Learning Outcomes
  - PDSA Data
- ✓Increase Participation
  - Involvement in Live Sessions
  - Assignment completion
- ✓Support for Reticent/At –Risk Students
- ✓Enrichment and student choice opportunities for students
- ✓Understanding of student strengths and areas of need
- ✓Improve Student/Teacher Relationships



Teacher Reflection

"Inviting other staff members into our classrooms improves professional collegiality. Following the virtual classroom visits, each host receives comments and suggestions from her colleagues. This provides a variety of perspectives on our teaching practices. Likewise, visiting staff members examine the instructional presentation and identify strategies and resources that they hope to use in future lessons. In this way, we implement common strategies in our classrooms, which promotes student success. We leave the virtual visits with an increased level of trust among staff and an even greater degree of respect for one another." Pearle Pratt



Student Reflection

“Teachers have used strategies to bring the class ‘closer’ and become more involved in virtual classes this year.” Juliana Inman

“MCEC teachers have always been doing a good job teaching remotely, but I have noticed the teachers are using more tools during their lessons and trying new ways to teach the material.” Hailey Brock

“I really believe teachers have put their all into making sure we understand what we learn in class. So far if we’ve had any concern or problem come up they all have been so helpful and always have a solution to our problems.” Yoselyn Notario Lozano





Questions?