

# 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: The Power of Our Words Standards Area: SEL, all standards  
Facilitator: Bridget Bauman School(s): MCE  
Beginning Date: 3/19 Ending Date: 5/7 # of Hours: 7  
*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?

Our goal was to learn language skills and strategies that will ensure more engaging academics, a positive classroom community, and effective management in the classroom. Our hope was that we could gain strategies to implement in our classrooms that would make us more effective teachers and our students better learners.

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

All grade levels and disciplines could benefit from this circle. Through learning new strategies and reflecting on the language we use with students, we can become better teachers and students can become better learners.

### What level of Guskey's Professional Development Evaluation did you select for this Circle?

Level 4: Participants' use of new knowledge and skills. It was our hope that we would come away with new strategies we could use in our classrooms, as well as a heightened awareness of the language we use with students and changes we can make to improve relationships and the learning environment. We were able to evaluate our learning through discussions, reflections, and observations.

## FINAL REFLECTIONS

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

Yes, I believe the goal was met. Each week we discussed a few chapters of the book. Through our discussion we identified a strategy (or a few) to focus on implementing in our classrooms in the following weeks. When we met again, we could discuss the impact certain changes in our language had on student engagement, behavior, and learning. We definitely became more aware of how certain language patterns could help or hinder student engagement or behavior and were able to reflect on the messages that we were sending to students. Our last meeting focused on the strategies we implemented that had had the greatest impact on students. We shared observations of changes we had made and the impact on student learning and behavior.

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

Members of this Collegial Circle assessed whether the outcome was met through our personal and shared reflections and discussion (see Meeting Notes). We were fortunate to have teachers across K-3, who brought different perspectives to the discussions. We had engaging conversations and reflected on things we thought we were going well and areas we identified as needing improvement. Participants used reflection journals while reading the chapters and to document progress and effectiveness of strategies being implemented. When we chose strategies to implement, we were able to circle back to them in the following weeks to check in on progress and to note the impact on student learning. We felt that we achieved our goal of learning language skills and strategies that can increase student engagement, help create a positive classroom environment, and allow for better classroom

management. We have observed positive changes in our classrooms in just a short amount of time and look forward to continuing this progress this year and for years to come.

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

This work had a significant impact on both teaching and student learning. It fits perfectly with the responsive classroom approach to teaching that I personally have been working hard to achieve. The chapters on reinforcing, reminding and redirecting language were especially helpful. Such simple tweaks to the way we give a direction or a reminder were so helpful, and we found that when we spent a bit more time being purposeful in our language use, we were able to have greater engagement in lessons and activities. We reflected a lot on the language we use with our students and the habitual language patterns we have developed over the years that may have seemed beneficial at one time, but are not necessarily helping to establish the tone in the room or the relationship with a student that you truly want. The strategies in the book really allowed us reflect on our current and past practices. Many of our current practices were supported by the ideas in the book, but some were a shift in both thinking and practice.

Our work also impacted student learning. Simple practices such as asking more open-ended questions increased student engagement. When explicitly trying this strategy in our classrooms, we all noted greater engagement. The purposeful phrasing of questions created an environment where students felt safe responding and we noticed students who might not have contributed to conversation doing so.

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

Yes, our work aligned with the level of evaluation we identified in the proposal. We all identified new strategies and implemented them. We gathered information through reflection journals and shared information with each other through discussions. Each week we reflected on the impact the strategy we were implementing had on our students. Overall, we came away with many new strategies that we are currently implementing, and we reflected on current and past practices. We look forward to continuing this work this year and in the years to come. We all found this circle beneficial.

**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.**