

# 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: Creativity & Innovation: Theory, Research & Practice by Jonathan A. Plucker Standards Area: Instructional Challenge Math/ELA

Facilitator: Sandy Stewart School(s): MCE, AC, JR, TR, PR, BRMS, CRMS

Beginning Date: 9/23/24 Ending Date: 4/7/25 # of Hours: 10

*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?

The goals were to learn about how the understanding of creativity has evolved in the last quarter century, know and understand more about creativity in the classroom (what it is, what it isn't and how to foster it) and how creativity is related to intelligence, leadership, personality and other constructs.

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

K-8 Math and ELA

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

Level 2

## FINAL REFLECTIONS

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

Yes. When we look back at our aforementioned goals we can confidently state that we met them.

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

To evaluate the success of our collegial circle, a variety of evidence was used. Teacher reflections and meeting feedback, growth over time through anecdotal before and after comparisons of our teaching practices as well as our mindsets around creativity in the classroom. Throughout the circle we gathered and shared creative and innovative ideas for our students based on ideas from the book. We discussed what is possible as well as the obstacles. We talked a lot about the role of teachers and classroom environment and how they play a central role in either enabling or stifling creativity. We realized that, with thoughtful planning and support, the possibilities for creativity in the classroom are expansive. We talked about how specific strategies can make creativity a part of everyday learning. These could be strategies such as designing open-ended assignments, encouraging questioning and curiosity, allowing time for exploration and play (scheduling time for creative play and passion projects such as "Genius Hour"), fostering a safe and supportive environment (normalizing risk-taking and learning from mistakes), incorporating collaboration and cross-disciplinary work, using creativity-focused assessment tools (rubrics that reward originality, flexibility and problem-solving), and modeling creative thinking.

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

A big idea in this book is that teachers need to model creative behaviors themselves and this is something we can be more intentional about. We can do this by sharing our own thought processes out loud, especially when problem-solving or planning something new. We also watched some powerful ted talks on creativity and had lengthy discussions around the content of these talks. One of our goals was around the wondering about the practicality and sustainability of creativity in the classroom and we learned that while there are real obstacles, meaningful change is possible. We can build classrooms that not only support creativity but thrive on it. We shared examples and ideas throughout the duration of the circle and some of those examples are included in this paperwork.

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

Yes. We acquired the intended knowledge and skills so that we are able to begin implementing creativity into our existing ELA and math enrichment units where it makes sense to do so.

**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 how some educators may feel unprepared to teach creatively, particularly if their own training emphasized a more traditional and conforming approach to the classroom. But we also realized that teachers don't need to overhaul everything to foster creativity. Even small shifts-like changing how questions are asked, what types of projects are assigned, or how success is defined can make a big difference in building a creative classroom culture. Creativity can enhance student engagement and deepen understanding and this is something all of us are working hard to achieve. We are excited to continue this work through continuing to add to our units ideas and strategies that are creative in nature.

Thank you very much for the time and opportunity to go deep into this idea.