

Redefining a Student Centered Approach to Learning: Our PLC Success Story



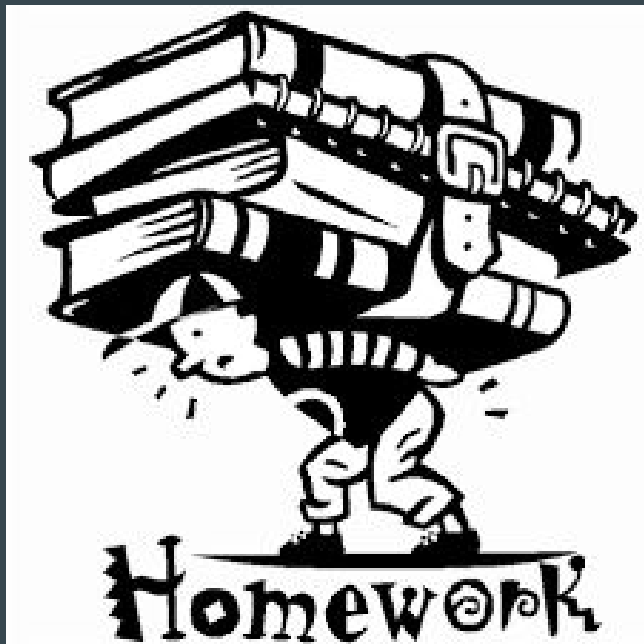
Cobden Jr/Sr High School

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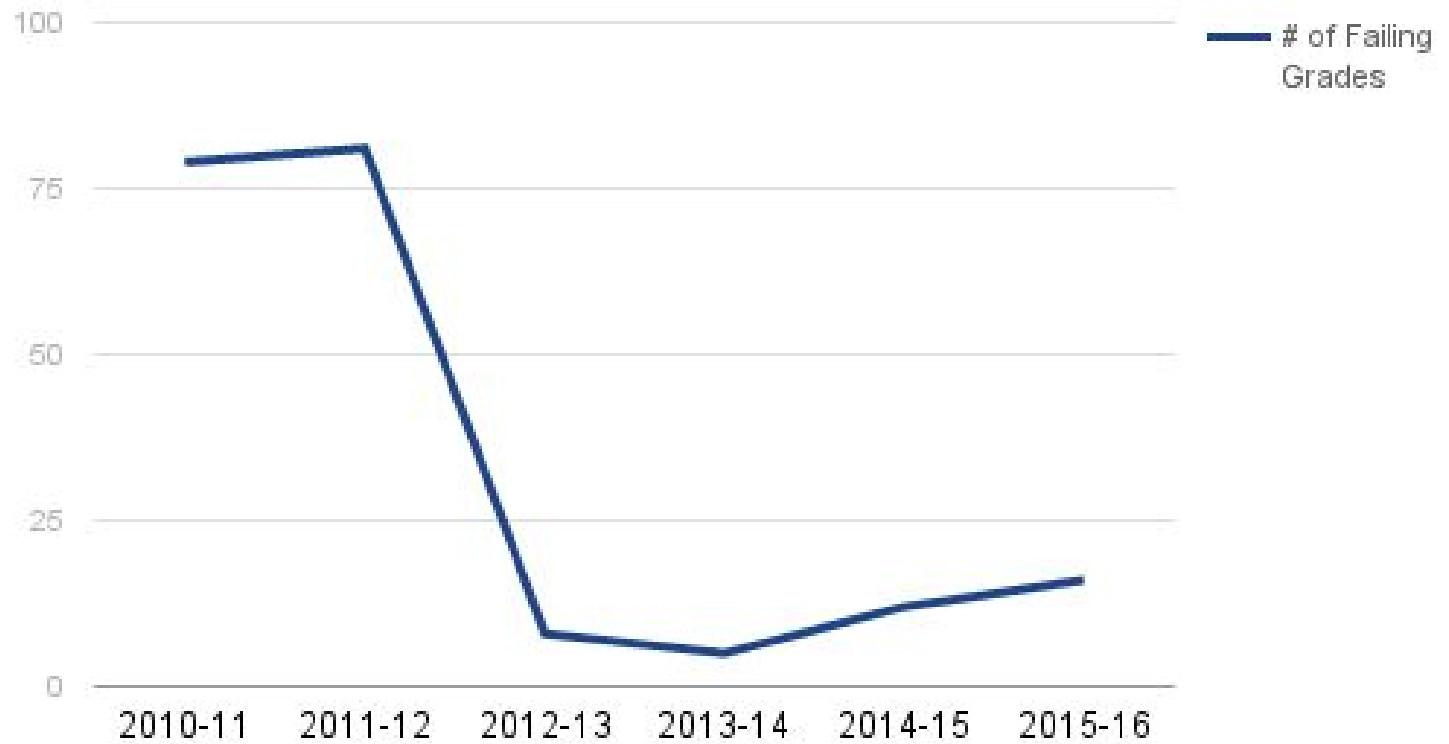
Working collaboratively to provide the highest levels of learning for all students

Why do kids fail in your class? School?





Failing Grades per Year



The Three Big Ideas of a PLC:

- Focus on Learning
- Build a Collaborative Culture
- Focus on Results



**What is the purpose of homework?
What happens if a student doesn't do their homework?**

Guided Study Hall

Purpose: To make students do their homework to ensure learning

Requirements:

- Students must complete 90% of the assignment
 - If this is not completed students will receive a GSH and make up the work during lunch in a designated classroom.
 - Students will receive 50% of the points earned on incomplete work
- 5 GSHs = an afternoon detention
- 10 GSHs = ISS
- 20+ GSHs per semester = ISS and will receive a ZERO on missing assignments.

Data: Each year, more students are doing their homework.

- Junior High: Decreased by 276 incomplete assignments since the first year
- High School: Decreased by 474 incomplete assignments since the second year.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	JH GUIDED STUDY HALL -									
2										
3		Student	Teacher	Class	Assignment	Lunch Needed (Y/N)	Notes			
4		Student 1	Teacher A	Math	Pg 15 #3-25 odds	y				
5		2 Student 2	Teacher B	Lang	"Lost Art" Poem	N				
6		3								
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26		23								
27		24								
28		25								
29						1				
30						4/7/2016				
31		1								

Advisory

- 25 minute portion of our day on Tuesday-Friday on regular scheduled days.
 - ◆ Similar to a Home Room
- Students assigned 12-18 students per year
- Teachers meet with individual students once a week to go over their grades check in.
- Teachers also are responsible for making parent contacts to update them on their child.
- Year to Year adjustments
- Teachers have really focused on documenting parent contacts

Team Collaboration

- In the beginning (2012-13)
- We meet twice a week (Monday/Thursday)
 - ◆ Mondays are PLC/Professional Development Days (2:05 Dismissal)
 - ◆ Thursdays are Advisory Awareness Checks
 - ◆ Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday are optional departmental meetings
- Agenda to guide discussions
- Discuss student concerns, as well as, celebrate student successes
- Goes hand-in-hand with continuous parent contacts

We will revisit this more during Session 2

Good Notes

- Teachers are encouraged to send Good Notes home to parents to fill them in on ways their child is succeeding
- Reasoning:
 1. Most parents only get contacted if their child is in trouble or struggling in class
 2. We want parents of great kids to not be overlooked
 3. Helps boost the confidence of our parents and our students when they get this in the mail
- Since we have started this, we have had great parent feedback because of the constant interaction between teachers and parents.

Seeds of Happiness/Appleknocker Hall of Fame

- Created an opportunity to reward students and staff for going above and beyond
 - ◆ Students nominate faculty/staff
 - ◆ Teachers nominate students
 - ◆ Each Friday 1 JH Student, 1 HS Student, and 1 Faculty/Staff is drawn out and selected.
 - ◆ Winners get announced, their picture taken together, all of the nomination forms they received, and Dairy Queen for lunch!
 - ◆ Students and Staff can only win 1 time during the year, but continue to receive the nominations they received throughout the year.
- Changed the name to Appleknocker Hall of Fame based on student suggestions
 - ◆ We are utilizing our 3D Printing Extension to make the “Hall of Fame” Awards each week

Test Retakes

- Implemented in the 2013-14 School year (only year of implementation)
 - ◆ Much debate by our staff whether to implement or not
- Process:
 - ◆ Any student who received a failing grade, would have to make up the test within 2 school days.
 - ◆ This would be completed during the Guided Study Hall time period
 - ◆ Students would be required to attend 1 tutoring session before the retake was completed.
 - ◆ Averaged the two test scores
- Our data did not show enough of an increase to continue this intervention
 - ◆ A lot of extra work on teachers, for minimal to no gains by students

Math Reteach

- Came about because of more rigorous curriculum
- Students learn differently.
- Same standard/topic; different teaching strategy
- Smaller group; more teacher time
- Weekly Progress Monitoring
- Fluid Class Roster
- 15-18 students
- Results: D/F students have become B/C students with this extra support.

Rtl Breakdown

Tier 1 - Viable Curriculum & Instruction for All - What do we want our students to learn? How will we know?

- Re-evaluated the purpose of homework
- Differentiated Instruction
- Getting Specific - Power Standards

Tier 2 - Diagnose the problem & provide support.

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| → Counseling - Internal & Agency | Math Reteach | ELA Intervention |
| → Guided Study Hall | AutoSkills | Math Intervention |
| → After School Tutoring | Advisory Peer Tutors | |

Tier 3 - Special Education Referral & Services

Power Standards

- Big Idea 1
- Directly from PLC Conference
- Came out of our Teacher Evaluation and Student Growth Discussions
- What are the most important standards to master before going to the next grade?
- Allows us to narrow our focus on the skills we teach in our classes
- Each Department met and narrowed standards down to four per strand. (6-12)
 - ◆ These will be the main standards we will focus on as we teach, yet we will plug in the remaining standards when necessary.
 - ◆ Revamped curriculum and began aligning curriculum vertically

Extensions and Interventions

→ 2 days a week (Tues/Thurs)

Interventions: Extra time for additional support for core subjects (Not Optional)

- Failing grade the previous quarter
- D/F on Grade Check Day
- 10 Guided Study Halls

Extensions: Students get opportunity to explore various topics not in current course offerings.

- Leadership
- Study Hall
- Service Learning
- 3D Printing
- Writing Lab
- Logic
- Interior Design
- FFA/SAE
- Animation
- Math/ELA Reteach

→ Extension Sign Up Process

- ◆ <https://docs.google.com/a/cusd17.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfk2JqP9Pcopr1bWgGRcdDJkfLkBtyUnEuZTqOEULGGrKJ2gw/viewform>

Focus on Collaboration

- BIG IDEA #2 (5th year and we are baby stepping through this)
- We are putting a high priority on becoming a school that has enough trust and transparency to collaborate departmentally, as well as, an entire staff.
- We want to get to a point where we can have the really hard conversations knowing that these will lead to us becoming better teachers, which will benefit our students even more.
- There will be bumps in the road, follow up conversations will be needed at times, and a whole lot of trust and buy-in.

PLC Interventions

- 2012-2013: Guided Study Hall, Good Notes, & Advisory
- 2013-2014: Guided Study Hall, Good Notes, Test Retakes, & Advisory
- 2014- 2015: Guided Study Hall, Seeds of Happiness & Advisory
- 2015-2016: Guided Study Hall, Appleknocker Wall of Fame, Advisory, Power Standards and Student Growth
- 2016-2017: Guided Study Hall, Appleknocker Wall of Fame, Advisory, and Extension/Interventions

PLC Results

Year	Failing Grades	Retention	Enrollment	Notes
2010-11	79		238	7-12 th Grade
2011-12	81	12	238	
2012-13	8	2	278	First Year Implementing 6 th -12 th Grade
2013-14	5	4	261	
2014-15	12	1	264	*Implemented a more rigorous Math curriculum *Added Math Reteach after 1 st semester leading to a decrease in failures 2 nd semester.
2015-16	16	1	305	Truancy Issues – Almost all failures belonged to two students
2016-17			315	In Progress

Professional Learning Communities (PLC)

Are Not...

- A program to be implemented
- A meeting
- A step-by-step recipe for change
- A sure-fire system borrowed from another school
- One more thing to add to an already cluttered school agenda
- Something you can purchase
- A workshop or presenter
- A book discussion group
- A complaint session

Are...

- A collaborative venture
- Always focused on student learning
- Distributes leadership responsibilities
- Narrows the curriculum to its essence
- Shares best practices as a means of improving instruction
- Uses “assessment for learning” in addition to the usual “assessment of learning”

*A PLC is not a meeting; it's a way of being.
A school does not do PLCs; they become a PLC.*

The Big Picture

- Change school culture
- Focus is on learning not teaching
- Raise expectations for students
- It's not a one size fits all
- Never ending process



PLC Discussion

What can this time be used for:

- Question and answer
- Different scenarios
- How could this work in your school?

Contact Us

If you would like to contact us to talk more specifically about:

- What we do in our building
- How this could potentially work at your school
- Meeting with your administration and staff
- Coming to visit our school

Principal: Crystal Housman

chousman@cusd17.com

618-893-4031

**What Questions Do You
Have So Far?**

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Reference Page

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- <http://www.allthingsplc.info/>
- Leverage: Using PLCs to Promote Lasting Improvements in Schools by Thomas W. Many and Susan K. Sparks-Many
- Learning by Doing: A Handbook for Professional Learning Communities at Work by Richard DuFour, Rebecca Dufour, Robert Eaker, and Thomas Many.