

Instructional Model Leads to Best Practices

Wawasee Middle School

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Background

Year 2 as principal of Wawasee Middle School I noticed that we had too many inconsistencies in our Tier 1 instruction. I wanted to be able to provide better support for my younger teachers and also my teachers that were struggling getting the results they and the school were looking for. Wawasee schools just strongly recommitted to the PLC process as a corporation. But we also need to rethink how we are delivering our tier one instruction. Will a school wide instructional model lead to best practices in the classroom?

Purpose of This Inquiry

Wawasee Middle School needs to develop more consistent and better instructional practices. Our purpose is work in best practices to provide better instruction. We believe a consistent instructional framework based in best practices should lead to better learning.

Our Wondering

With this purpose, we wondered if establishing a school wide instructional framework will provide more consistent instruction using best practices, which will lead to better results in the classroom.

Our Actions

1. Get teacher feedback on what practices are the most effective in their classrooms
2. Instructional Leadership Team will analyze the feedback and put together an instructional framework.
3. Introduce framework to the staff.

Instructional Framework



Wawasee Middle School Instructional Framework

Instructional Practices that will be seen during all units of instruction on WMS Campus.



| Everyday | Sometimes | Never |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Explicit communication of LO/Goals</p> <p>Teachers engaged in class/Powerzone</p> <p>Checking for Understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 on 1 talk - Class discussion/ questioning - Pre-planned assessment - Exit Ticket <p>Lesson Frames/Intentional Lesson Planning</p> <p>Students engaged</p> <p>Building positive relationships</p> <p>Posted procedures/Behavior expectations</p> | <p>High Engagement Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learning Games - Cooperative Learning - Quiz Games <p>PBL</p> <p>Formative Assessments</p> <p>Summative Assessments</p> <p>Student Presentations</p> <p>Critical Writing Activities</p> <p>Real World Connections</p> <p>Review Activities</p> <p>Student Goal Setting/Reflection</p> | <p>Staff not engaged + unpreparedness = Off-Task Behavior</p> <p>Power Struggles</p> <p>Mean Sarcastic Talk/Disrespect from teachers</p> <p>Absence of Learning objective</p> <p>Low Student Expectations</p> <p>Inconsistent Classroom Management</p> |

Data Collection

The administrators will perform unannounced walkthroughs and will look for the practices established in our Instructional Framework. We will keep this data in a google form created. We will also talk to teachers about the framework and what their thoughts are.

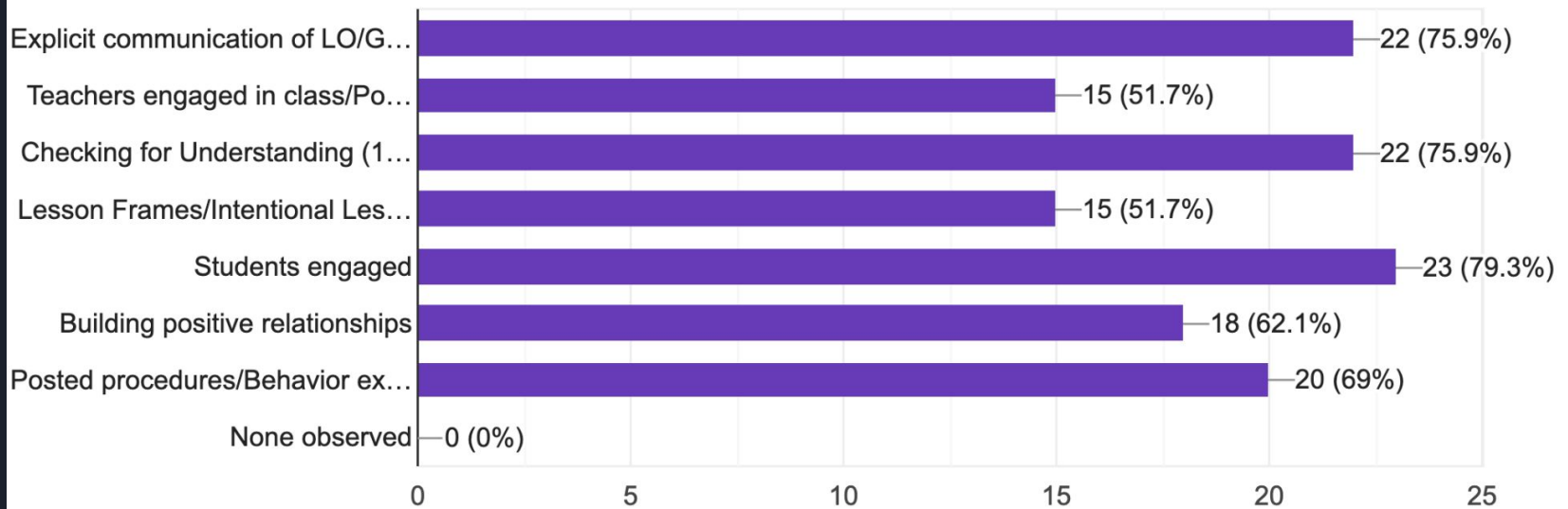
Our Data

Administrators did walkthroughs and kept google forms which that data is posted below. We also discussed the benefits or lack thereof of the Instructional framework. Some of the feedback from teachers was that it helped set a baseline of expectations and what admin is looking for when walking through. Majority of the teachers felt that they were already using these best practices so staff didn't feel that they had to make any major changes.

Our Data

Always

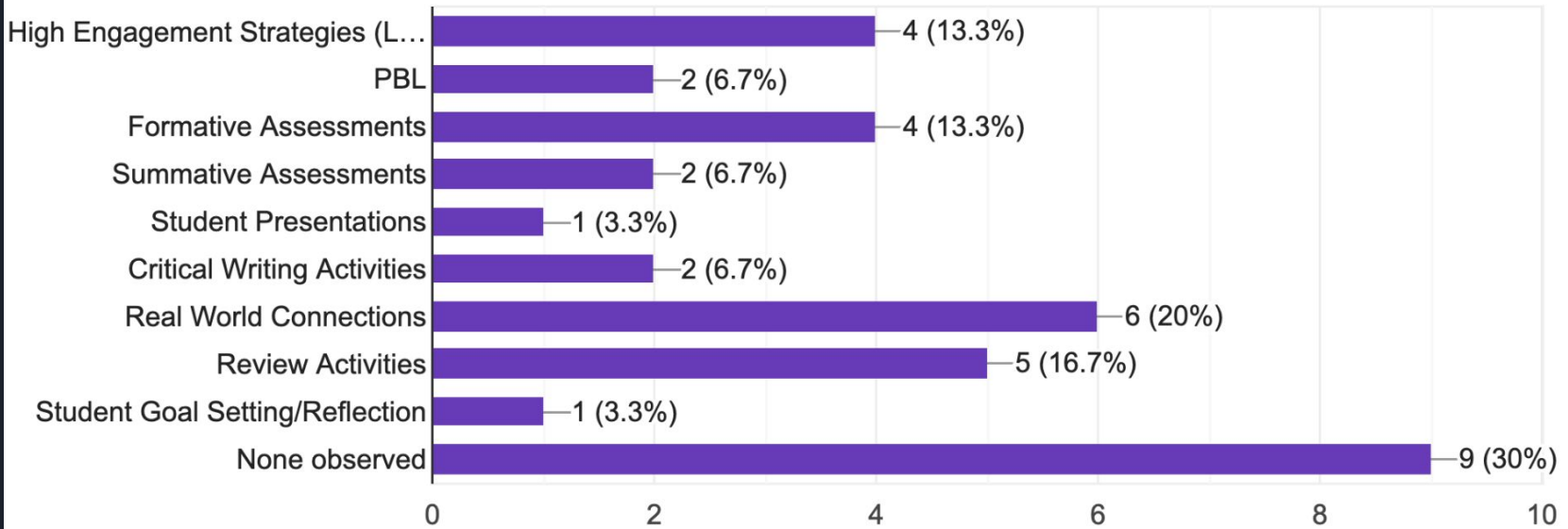
29 responses



Our Data

Sometimes

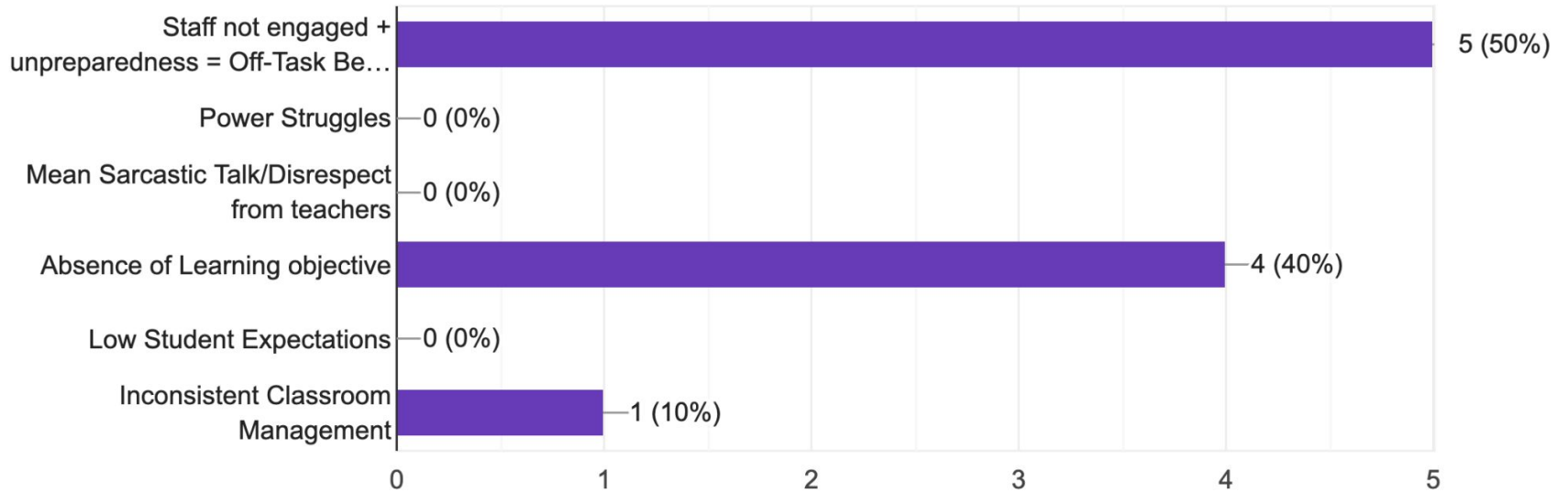
30 responses



Our Data

Never

10 responses



Our Discoveries

Learning Statement 1: Instructional framework provides baseline expectations for teachers.

Learning Statement 2: Majority of teachers are using these best practices in their instruction.

Learning Statement 3: One of our major areas of weakness is working in the power zones.

Where We Are Heading Next

In the future, we will encourage our teachers to keep a focus on the instructional framework. We will be providing more professional development on these best practices. We will also focus on teachers working the powerzones. We will use our smart start times to do a series of PD on the powerzones and the benefits this will provide. We will build on this training as the next school year progresses. The instructional Leadership Team will also re-evaluate the instructional framework to make sure it aligns with our school smart goals that we will establish for the next school year.

Bibliography

- Cain, Sean and Laird, Mike *The Fundamental 5: The Formula for Quality Instruction* New York, CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform; 1st edition (May 8, 2011)