JCHS Model for Teaching and Learning

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Background That Led to Your Team's Inquiry:

With all of the upcoming changes for high school students, JCHS decided it was time to turn our focus back to the basics - teaching and learning. With the help of our teacher-leaders, our staff created an instructional model defining, in our own words: learning, teacher engagement, and student engagement. We also created a list of should see, might see, and never see to accompany the definitions. Our graphic arts department has designing a poster to be displayed in all classrooms and work areas in the building. The purpose of this action research was to create a school wide model for teaching and learning for both teachers and students to reference throughout the school year.

Statement of Your Team's Wondering:

Can we relieve some of the stress educators feel by taking the focus off of all the changes coming from the state and focusing on what is quality teaching and learning?

Can we, as a staff, find consensus in defining engagement and activities that should be seen, might be seen, or should never be seen in the classrooms on a daily basis?

Methods/Procedures:

To gain insight in our wonderings, we began with a survey to the staff using a Google Form. We had each one of them define, in their own words, learning, student engagement, and teacher engagement. We also had them each list one thing the should always see, might see, and never see in a JCHS classroom. The other item on the survey that did not manifest itself in this project was to identify one area of focus you would like us to address in the 18-19 school year. 55 of our 61 teachers participated in the survey.

After collecting survey results, teachers were placed in groups of 9 and given one of the 7 questions from the survey. Each group was assigned a leader and our teacher-leaders were in charge of leading two groups each.

Each group leader turned in their respective pieces of the project and our graphics arts department went to work formatting the poster. Each classroom and workroom will post this information and use it as a guideline for teaching and learning at JCHS.

Stating Your Team's Learning and Supporting it with Data:

As a result of analyzing our data, (two/three) important things we learned include: 1) our staff can create a shared vision on teaching and learning; 2) attendance is going to be an area of focus for the 18-19 school year.

Providing Concluding Thoughts:

As a result of this project, our staff became engaged in creating a shared vision of teaching and learning for our school. We also identified an a couple areas we'd like to improve during the following school year. Marzano's work in High Reliability Schools has impacted our high school by creating an instructional vision and focus on guaranteed curriculum.

Our leadership team will continue to complete action research projects as a way to implement change. The groundwork for priority standards, content vocab, and an attendance initiative is already being laid for next school year. The challenge is knowing this is a 3-5 years process and that these changes do not come more quickly.

References: