

Professional Learning Community

“Good Teaching”

Bloomington High School South 2001/2002



Learning Community Goals:

- Based on PBA, District Goals, Task Force.
 1. Increase Student Achievement through BHSS Best Practices
 2. Integrate technology through BHSS Best Practices
 3. Evaluate, reflect, change, and implement Learning Community Goals



Learning Community Vocabulary:

- Learning Community: An environment where leaders are learners.
 1. Students learn in an engaging and enriching atmosphere
 2. Teachers learn in a professional community of learners
 3. Administrators learn in a professional community and have a higher commitment to support and enhance classroom instruction.
- Professional Growth Forum: A vehicle to achieve many of the learning community goals. Based on PBA, Task Force, teacher input, and focused on student achievement.
- Observation: Any professional interaction between supervisor and teacher. This has a major focus on observing classroom instruction.
- Clinical Supervision: A teacher-driven method of formal observation.
- Professional “Learning Community” Opportunities: Opportunities where teachers (Attend Conferences, Share Expertise, Get paid for producing innovative instructional ideas and lessons)
- Best Practices: Researched-based teaching practices at BHSS that are important for student achievement.

Bloomington High School South

Best Practices for Effective Teaching:

- Academic knowledge and skills
- Teaching of thinking skills
- Use of time
- Development of student attitudes and motivation to learn
- Teaching with student differences
(cultural, intellectual, gender)
- Classroom management
- Planning and decision-making
- Implementation and curriculum change
- Involvement in a professional community
- Professional Responsibilities:
(Attendance, Communication, Grades, Hallway Supervision, Mentor)







Training The Leadership Team:

- Learning: Leaders are learners
 1. Professional Growth Forums
 2. Observation
 3. Clinical Supervision
 - Commitment to the professionals in the Learning Community.
 - Communication: connecting people to resources and other people. Also communicating clear expectations and ideas. Best Practices will constantly evolve to help students.
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BHSS Best Practices: Four Major Areas:

Important Stuff

1. Planning and Preparation: 
 - Demonstrating knowledge of content and pedagogy
 - Demonstrating knowledge of students
 - Selecting instructional goals
 - Demonstrating knowledge of resources
 - Designing coherent instruction
 - Assessing student learning
2. Classroom Environment: 
 - Creating an environment of respect and rapport
 - Establishing a culture for learning
 - Managing classroom procedures
 - Organizing physical space
3. Instruction: 
 - Communicating clearly and accurately
 - Engaging students in learning
 - Providing feedback to students
 - Demonstrating flexibility and responsiveness
 - Assessing student learning
4. Professional Responsibilities: 
 - Attendance is taken by the teacher at the beginning of each class period.
 - The teacher is out in the hallways during passing periods.
 - The teacher uses phone, internet, and email to communicate with families.
 - The teacher is a contributing member of this professional learning community.
 - The teacher is meeting the “Mentor / SRT” objectives.




Achieving Learning Community Goals:

- Professional Growth Forums: 

1. These will be held once a month during prep time and after school.
2. All faculty members will attend each forum.
3. Teachers will evaluate each forum.
4. Evaluations will be kept in this section of the teacher help book.
5. A number of learning opportunities will be offered that address our “Learning Community Goals.”
6. The Professional Growth Forum may be taken for Indiana University Credit. A reflection and assignment component will be required.

Date	Session	Rm	Session	Rm	Goals
Sept. 18	Building Teacher Home pages: Beginning:	TBA	Building Teacher Home pages: Group Share	TBA	1, 2, 3
Oct. 23	Classroom Management Innovations and student motivation	LGR	Classroom Management and student motivation techniques group share	A238	1, 3
Nov. 6	Differentiated Instruction and Multitask Environment	LGR			1, 2, 3
Dec. 4	Technology Integration Teacher Awareness Building Best Practices with technology for BHSS.	LGR			1, 2, 3
Jan. 8	Writing Across The Curriculum with Technology	LGR			1, 2, 3
Feb. 12	Alternative Assessment	LGR			1, 2, 3
March 19	Student Learning through open questioning and research	LGR			1, 2, 3
April 9	How do I know my work is paying off? Getting at Student Achievement data and reflecting on your practice	LGR			1, 2, 3
May 21	This year is about over and what do I do with that big void in my life called summer?	Local Estab lishment.	Block losers have to treat!		Sanity

- Observation (Informal): 

1. Simple / Important / Effective
2. This process is here in this professional learning community.
3. The process includes: stopping by class, being invited in to take a look at class, interacting as professionals
4. The assistant principal in your block will be the person:
 - a. doing the observing
 - b. discussing the growth forums
 - c. discussing SRT and mentoring
 - d. talking about your professional development in a learning community.

- Clinical Supervision (Formal Observation): 

1. Teachers may choose the professional growth plan as an alternative to the clinical supervision.
2. However, before you do choose that, learn about clinical supervision.
3. Contains three components:
 - a. Planning meeting
 - b. Observation
 - c. Post Observation Discussion and Feedback
4. Through this process, there will be the
 - a. School Driven Four Major Areas Best Practices
 - b. Teacher Driven Two Major Areas + Learning Goals to create customized focus for observation.

 **BHSS Best Practices: Two Major Areas + Learning Goals:**

2. Classroom Environment: 

3. Instruction: 

Teacher Driven

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Evaluation of the Learning Community:

- Evaluation must take place from multiple data sources
- Most important is feedback and evaluation from the leaders and learners in the professional learning community.
- Evaluation will lead the change in the development of the culture of learning for the following year.