

Year-round teacher training is results-based and begins with a clear focus on student learning needs



Professional collaboration is essential if all students are to be successful. Teachers meet regularly for professional learning and to plan collective responses to student needs.

When Spring Lake Park School District 16 staff members engage in professional learning, it is results-based and begins with a clear focus on student learning needs.

Professional collaboration and time for staff to work together is essential if all students are to be successful.

Professional learning is important. Improvements in student learning will not be realized in the absence of purposeful professional development.

So, how do we engage in professional learning to improve student achievement?

On a typical day teachers spend the vast majority of their day working with students.

In addition, professional learning is also embedded in the daily, collaborative work of our teachers and staff.

All teachers participate in what we call professional learning community teams, on a weekly basis, during which they focus on individual and collective student learning needs.

These blocks of time aren't the only ways teachers learn though. The Spring Lake Park School District offers a Professional Development and Learning Academy that offers all staff the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of classes that align directly with our district goals.

In 2008-09 over 100 staff participated in classes.

Summers off? No, summer has become an important time for training.

There were over several days of summer learning and planning put in by teachers. Activities included:

- Hundreds of hours put in by hundreds of teaching staff, principals and others throughout the summer in training and planning for the upcoming year
- August 24-26 over eighty teacher leaders and principals will be involved in professional learning and planning for the upcoming year
- School leadership teams review progress towards their priorities and projects consistently, update their plans every 90 days, and immediately take actions based on these updates

That is just a sampling of the time our teachers and staff put in throughout the summer, engaged in professional learning so they are prepared to meet the many needs of our learners.

What are our professional development initiatives for 2009-2010?

We will continue to foster a professional learning community aligned around improving student learning through a focus on the following three initiatives:

- *Personalization and Student Engagement*
- *Implementing a System of Interventions to respond to student learning needs in each school*
- *Equity: Race and Cultural Competence*

More information

More information can be found on each initiative, as well as anything else highlighted in this section by viewing our professional development plan under the heading, "What are our staff doing to improve learning?"

You can also contact your school principal or Assistant Superintendent Jeff Ronneberg. Just click on "Contact Us" on our website.

