

Dassel-Cokato Schools

Staff Development Strands

2011-2012

The district staff development committee will offer seven strands of study during the 2011-2012 school year. Each strand will focus on the goal:

To improve student achievement by providing on-going professional development focusing on district, site, and individual professional growth goals.

Each strand will also require participants' active involvement to identify areas of need, plan improvements leading to increased student performance, and track those improvements. The strands are listed here and are more fully described on the following pages.

Curriculum – 7-12 Communications
Lesson Design
Daily 5
PLC I & PLC II
Special Education
Hybrid Courses
Advanced Technology

Notes:

- Building principals will ask you for a first and second strand preference.
- Strand Schedule:
December 2, January 16, March 5

7:45 – 8:00	Continental Breakfast
8:00 – 11:30	Strands Meet
11:30 – 12:30	Lunch on your own
12:30 – 3:45	Site Staff Development and/or Individual Work Time
- Strands with low enrollment will be cancelled.

Curriculum – 7-12 Communications

Purpose: To provide follow-up for the committee to review summer curriculum work and prepare for material selection and adoption.

Description: Committee members will review materials and develop curriculum maps for their grade level or department. Teachers will be provided time to examine materials and prepare recommendations for adoption. Committee work will culminate in presentations to the Curriculum Advisory Committee and the School Board.

Daily 5 – Elementary School Teachers

Purpose: To provide teachers with a structure to deliver the language arts skills necessary for students to work at their level of challenge, while taking responsibility for their learning and behavior.

Description: **The Daily 5** has been practiced and refined in classrooms for 10 years and shared with thousands of teachers throughout the United States. It is a series of literacy tasks which students complete daily while the teacher meets with small groups or confers with individuals. During this book study we will learn about the Daily 5 and its implementation into an elementary classroom.

Lesson Design Understanding by Design

Purpose: To provide teachers with a model for improving and enhancing instruction. This strand will introduce the Understanding by Design model which will encourage teachers to think about the learning goals first, then develop assessments and finally plan lessons and activities to help students achieve the learning goals.

Description: Understanding by Design (backward design) is a curriculum design model that acknowledges the centrality of standards and focuses on what we teach and what assessment evidence we need to collect. If we want students to explore essential questions and come to understand important ideas contained in content standards, then we need to plan accordingly. We will learn about the three-stage backward design process while enhancing or creating a unit you teach.

Stage 1: Identify desired results (Big Idea/Essential Questions)

Stage 2: Determine acceptable evidence (Assessments)

Stage 3: Plan learning experiences and instruction (Instructional strategies and activities)

Professional Learning Communities I (PLC)

Purpose & Description Throughout the Professional Learning Community strand, participants will get an introduction of the conceptual model. Members will dive deeper into the components that form a successful "PLC." Together we will develop the implementation plan that will guide our district forward in the upcoming years. As a group, we will design plans to best meet the needs of each individual building and overcome the challenges and foster growth toward improved academic achievement. Participation in this strand signifies that you will provide building leadership for the 2012 - 2013 school year.

Professional Learning Communities II (PLC)

Purpose & Description The PLC 2011 strand is taking PLCs to the next level and completing the Shift. Using resources from outside the district, compiling evidence from within our schools and researching the cutting edge educational practices; we will put PLCs into action.

Special Education - District

Purpose: To assist special education staff in planning and implementing appropriate services for students with an IEP.

Description: How to use test data to determine instructional needs leading to standards-based IEP's. Speech/Language Pathologists will be able to review recent AT Network Day and AT resources needed to meet specific student needs. A behavior specialist will address tackling the Tough Behaviors and Libby will be giving an overview on OHD criteria and eligibility requirements. Planning for Transitions: Determining student needs as they not only transition between buildings and staff, but also as they transition out of high school. Time will be saved to look at fall caseloads to begin planning for building staff and curriculum needs

Hybrid/Online Learning Technology Strand

Purpose: To study hybrid and online courses, determine how they fit at DCHS, and begin the process of designing a course.

Description: This strand is ideal for high school teachers who want to study hybrid and online courses to determine if this is a model that would work for them at DCHS. We will investigate questions such as: What is a hybrid/online course? How is a hybrid course different from a purely online course? How would these courses work at DCHS? What are the elements of a successful hybrid/online course? What tools are available for offering these courses? How are hybrid/online courses designed and delivered? If time allows, we will experiment with designing an actual course. This strand is potentially a starting point for the creation of a hybrid or online course at DCHS.

Advanced Technology-Elementary

Purpose: To provide an opportunity to learn and explore technology available at the elementary schools.

Description: This strand is ideal for those elementary teachers who want to incorporate internet resources; effectively utilize the new Microsoft office Suite and integrate multimedia software into student projects.

Advanced Technology-5-12

Purpose: To learn and integrate the various technologies that is available at the middle and high schools.

Description: This strand is ideal for those teachers who want to incorporate more internet resources; discover the advanced features in Office2010; explore the advanced features of SMART; and integrate multimedia into instruction and student projects.

**2011-2012
District Staff Development
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***This brochure is available online at:
www.dc.k12.mn.us/district466/Curriculum***