

Brief Goal Description: Instruction

Description: Using a variety of higher order thinking techniques teachers will support students in becoming deeper thinkers through enhanced questioning and explanation techniques.

Rationale: In preparation for the Common Core State Standards students will need to expand their reasoning and thinking. Student will be expected to justify their thoughts using evidence, evaluate information, and compare multiple sources in order to draw reasonable conclusions.

Activities and Steps to Be Taken:

- Participate in a professional learning community engaging in Visible Thinking PD with colleagues (KALPA).
- As a grade level identify 2 strategies from Visible Thinking that will be taught, practiced and used throughout the year as a tool to capture higher level thinking.
- Participate in peer observations (vertical and/or horizontal) and opportunity for constructive feedback.
- Collect and analyze student work samples through a team created rubric to validate level of rigor and higher order thinking.
- Visit other schools that support higher order thinking routines.
- Collaboration with colleagues to develop strategies that support the curriculum through higher order thinking and questioning skills (Think about teaching concise explanation).
- Extending lessons from previous years to support students in higher order thinking.
- Complete self-reflection/evaluation on level of rigor in work and on a particular lesson.
- Utilize specific feedback.

Documentation:

- Student work that reflects the Visual Thinking commitment for the grade level
- Reflective writing on PD, peer observation, work sample analysis, school visits
- Commit to posting work that reflects student writing, text analysis, and higher order thinking
- photographs (options: student work, whole group work, bulletin boards, videotapes, etc.)
- anchor charts that reflect evidence of higher order thinking techniques
- Contribute to a community bulletin with examples of student work that reflect the Visible Thinking strategies (each grade is represented for each strategy).

- “Look for/checklist” for observation from peers or principal, also for student work
- examples of student work that reflect rationale
- Rubrics that inform students (and teachers) of quality work
- Notes from collaboration with colleagues (When students are completing a task they should be able to discuss what the task is and how they know if they are doing quality job.)
- Professional reading - notes, discussion, highlighting, etc.

Persons/Resources Needed:

- Visible Thinking by (Ron Ritchhart)
- Ellen Cale
- Other schools that practice VT routines (i.e. Bemis Elementary, Leonard, Way)
- PD registration log
- Vertical collaboration time
- Application lessons

Time Lines and Deadlines:

- Ongoing through the year