Orange High School Administrators
July 20, 2010

Small learning Communities

What does an SLC include?

- A core group of teachers and students
- Common Planning Time
- Interdisciplinary Thematic Projects/Units
- Family Advocacy
- Planning Lane Teachers
- Administrative Support
- District Support
- EVERYONE

Small Learning Communitites

- Keep them small, tall, and pure
  - All year
  - Same team of teachers teach all students all years in the school
  - Outside electives/specials taught by SLC affiliates in planning lanes
  - Transitional Communities optional (Newcomers, Bridges, Alternative Program)

Small Learning Communities

- Give them identity through theme
  - Selected by staff, including ESL and SE
  - Rigorous

Small Learning Communities

- Common Planning Time
  - Contract allows for two per week
  - During the day
  - Early release days
- Flexible allocation of resources
  - People, time, money, and space

RESOURCES

Common Planning Time Agenda

- ORANGE PREP ACADEMY
- SMALL LEARNING COMMUNITY MEETINGS

- SLC _____Coordinator_____Recorder:_____Date_____

- Members Present:_____
- Academic Scope and Sequence
- SubjectEssential Question(s)Skills

Science 8		
Social Studies 8		
Math 8		
LAL 8		
Biology		
World History		
Algebra		
English I		
Planning Lane (s)		
Educational Methods/Teaching Strategies		
Name of Strategy		

Date of First Implementation
Positive Experiences
Obstacles
Solutions for overcoming obstacles

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Small Learning Communities

- Collective Responsibility
  - Taking responsibility for student outcomes at the SLC level
  - Effective practices
  - Professional Learning Community

Discussion

- Which features of SLCs excite you the most and why?

- What do you think will be most challenging?

Family Advocacy (FA)

What is FA?

- A proven way to strengthen the kind of parent involvement that really matters
  - Who at school really knows my child?
  - Is my child well known by an adult whom I know and trust?
  - Do I know what my role is in supporting my child's success?

What does it take?

- A commitment by all professional and other qualified staff
  - To work with approximately 15 students and their families
  - For as long as they are in the school
  - To ensure academic success for those students

What does an advocate get trained to do?

- Use one-on-one and small group time with students effectively
- Monitor student progress with an academic and behavioral profile
- Establish regular and productive communication with families
- Conduct effective family conferences
- Work with colleagues to ensure each student's success

Discussion

- Why is it so critical to have a system in place that engages families in their children's education?

- Historically, it has been difficult to engage the families of middle and high school students in the students' education. Do you see FAS as being different, and if so, why?

Instructional Goals

- Active Engagement
- Alignment
- Rigor

Common Planning Time

- Interdisciplinary Thematic Unit/Project Planning
- Systemic Student Issues Resolutions
- Individual Student Conferences
- Parent Conferences
- Referrals to Family Advocate
- Referrals to I&RS
- Field Trip planning in conjunction w/Unit
- SLC student functions planning

Coordinators

Role:
- -Sets the tone for the SLC
- -Facilitates CPT meetings
- -Liaison between administration, teachers, and students
- -Disseminate information from administration to faculty
- -Assist in setting up FA
- -Record Keeping
- -Assign necessary roles to others or encourage them to participate in the process
- -Head cheerleader for the SLC
- **$2,500 stipend**

Next steps for administrators

- Determine what the SLCs will look like
- Determine which staff members are on which SLC (highly qualified, equitable…)
- Determine which students are on which SLC
- Revise master schedule to ensure purity and equity
- Select SLC coordinators
- Train coordinators
- Teaching within the block training for all
- Summer training

Next Steps for Staff Members

- SLC meeting to work on SLC identity
- SLC meeting to work on SLC business, discipline, common language, standards, and recruitment of students
- SLC meeting to create brochure
- Begin planning first thematic unit

Scheduling

- Numbers
  - Number of total students (GE, SE, ELL)
  - Number of students per SLC
  - Class Sections per subject
  - Class Sections per program (SE, ELL)
  - SLC size (equity)

Student SLC Selection

THEMATIC SMALL LEARNING COMMUNITY	RANK
HEALTH SCIENCES For students interested in understanding the latest advances that improve the quality of human life and solve health problems	
ARTS (Visual/ Performing) For students interested in music and drama as well as students who are interested in developing their creative talents in painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, etc.	
LAW For students interested in the criminal justice system, practicing law, and other civil service careers	
BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY For students interested in technology, computer design, computer related fields, and business careers.	

Teacher Selection Form

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Scheduling

- Creating the Master Schedule
- Planning Lane Teachers/Affiliates
- Revise, revise, revise
- Mass Load in Genesis
- Double check equity (gender, race, program)