

Questions about the Collaborative Practice:

Should we only read Chapter 9 and 16 of Jon Saphier's book for this collaboration?

You can read Chapter 9 and 16 of The Skillful Teacher as a way to focus on a certain area. If you wanted to pick another chapter that was not covered, that's fine. Chapter 19 on assessment, may be a good chapter for a team to focus on. Many teachers at Awbrey Park have expressed personal goals of knowing more about formative assessment. This is a very thorough chapter to explore.

Should collaboration partners have time to plan a goal BEFORE collaboration begins?

Yes, collaborative partners will have planning time and staff development directly related to collaborative practice on April 1st. Collaboration begins on April 15th and spans through June 7th.

What are the guidelines? What are parameters?

The only official guidelines are that you meet for 4 out of the 9 weeks during your collaborative time. Teachers should be working together during those 4 weeks. It could mean that you plan observations of classrooms together at separate times and then come together to discuss on a schedule set by the teachers. Working together does mean that teachers will have ongoing conversation about a set goal they have put in front of each other. Teachers may work on multiple goals.

How will we benefit AP Students?

You will benefit AP students by choosing a skill or activity that improves your professional practice of teaching.

Any specific goals?

Topics of your collaboration will vary widely. Some may choose to study Jon Saphier together and practice strategies. Others may choose to focus on integrating technology into a project and get support from their partner. The list is quite varied.

What is this about? How did it come about?

Sara Cramer wanted to create a PE/Music schedule that provided time for teachers to collaborate. Sara believes that one of the strongest tools for instructional improvement is to build in quality collaborative practice amongst teachers.

How fluid and flexible can we be? Time Together/ apart?

You can be very flexible. What is most important about this time is that you see it as a way to learn and grow professionally. I encourage you to think outside of the box. You might want to plan a project to learn a specific skill. For example, you want to learn new ways to integrate

technology into a social studies lesson. You could work with your partner to make this happen. You may want to schedule meetings over the whole nine weeks and stretch out your work.

4 weeks collaborative, what about the other 5 weeks?

The other five weeks will be a chance for you to work. The district has told me that it is not a designated prep time. I encourage you to use it for planning, grading, and communicating with families.

When is the plan due?

We will work on this on our collaboration day, April 1st.. You should have something to share in writing by the end of our PD sessions. There should be a written statement (4-5 sentences) about your collaborative work no later than April 15th.

What and when do we need to show proof?

Administration does expect you to share what you have learned with the staff during staff meetings this year. We may hold an extra meeting to ensure all teachers have a chance to share their work. This will be an informal sharing experience. No slide shows or written work will need to be submitted but you might have a tool to share with others or something to give to the staff as a take away.

What evaluations? Evaluation process?

There is no evaluation by administration. This is only for your professional learning.

I hope this helps to answer some of your questions.

Best wishes and have a fabulous Spring Break!

Joel