



DPS Curriculum Connection

Teacher Leaders—Contributors to School Success

When we think of teacher leaders, we usually think of those professionals who have stepped up in some sort of leadership capacity (i.e., curriculum facilitator, teacher leader for their department/grade level) within their building. Truth be told, it's all our professional responsibility to be a teacher leader. The key is figuring which teacher leader role best suits your individual preference and talents.

Some leadership roles are formal, like mentioned above, and some are more informal as teachers interact with their peers. Whether it is in a formal or informal capacity, teacher leaders help shape the culture of their schools, improve student learning, and influence practice among their peers. Here are a few teacher leader roles that can be found within schools. Which role will you take?

Resource Provider—Teachers share their instructional resources. These might include Web sites, instructional materials, articles, books, lesson plans, and assessment tools. Providing resources and discussing instructional strategies is one of the most effective forms of professional development and growth.

Instructional Specialist—Teachers help colleagues implement effective teaching strategies. Effective teaching strategies might include ideas for differentiating instruction, planning lessons in partnership with fellow teachers, studying research-based classroom strategies, and instructional methodologies that are appropriate for the school.

Curriculum Specialist—Teachers help colleagues to understand content standards (essential outcomes) and how various parts of the curriculum link together. Teachers begin to agree on standards, follow the adopted curriculum, use common pacing charts, and develop shared assessments.

Classroom Supporter—Teachers work inside the classroom in a co-teaching or coaching capacity. Lesson demonstration, observing, and giving feedback enhances teachers' self-efficacy and overall improvement through collaboration.

Learning Facilitator—Teachers learning from one another, focusing most directly on what improves student learning. The professional learning becomes more relevant, focused on teachers' classroom work, and is aligned to fill gaps in student learning. The Professional Learning Community philosophy enhances and supports the Learning Facilitator. Plans for professional development opportunities from fellow teachers can be carried out through the Learning Facilitator.

Mentor—Teachers serve as role models related to instruction, curriculum, procedures, practices, and politics within a building. Mentoring takes a great deal of time and expertise. When done right, it can make a significant contribution to the development and retention of the new teachers.

School Leader—Teachers serve on building committees, support school initiatives, and represent the school on community or district committees. A school leader shares the vision of the school, aligns his/her professional goals with those of the school and district, and shares responsibility for the success of the school as a whole.

Data Coach—Teachers lead conversations that engage their peers in analyzing and using student data to strengthen instruction. Teachers are comfortable gathering, manipulating, and disaggregating data which is then modeled for their colleagues.

Created By: Mrs. Margo
D. Empen—Assistant
Superintendent DPS

Volume 4

December 9, 2011

References

- Larner, M. (2004). *Pathways: Charting a course for professional learning*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.
- Marzano, R., Pickering, D., & Pollock, J. (2001). *Classroom instruction that works*. Alexandria, VA: ASCD.
- Ten Roles for Teacher Leaders. (2007, September) *Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development*, 65, 74-77. Retrieved December 6, 2011 from <http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/sept07>

Academic Dates to Remember:

| | |
|--|-------|
| ACT Test at DHS— 7:45 a.m. | 12/10 |
| DHS Band Holiday Concert at 2:00 pm | 12/11 |
| Board of Education Meeting at DHS | 12/14 |
| DHS Holiday Choral Concert—7:00 pm | 12/15 |
| Winter Break Be- gins | 12/21 |
| Ronald McDonald Care Mobile | |
| Medical Day | 12/27 |



Teacher Leaders—Contributors to School Success

Catalyst for Change—Teachers who are visionaries and are not content with the status quo. These teachers are secure in their own work and have a strong commitment to continual improvement. They pose questions to generate analysis of student learning.

Learner—Teachers as learners model continual improvement, demonstrate lifelong learning, and use what they learn to help all students achieve. Faculty and team meetings become a forum in which teachers learn from one another. The commitment to and the willingness to talk about learning break down barriers of isolation that existed among teachers.

These 10 teacher leader roles can be utilized one at a time, be different from year to year, or used in multiple ways during a school year. The hope is that **EVERYONE** is a teacher leader. We learn best from each other, and I hope we take the opportunity presented to us to be teacher leaders.
