



Washington Township School District

About five years ago, Washington teachers and administrators made sure that sufficient time was built into their morning schedule for collaboration, data analysis, brainstorming best practices. Accordingly, Washington teachers meet at least three times every week to discuss and debate what type of supports their students need and how they will adjust their curricula that month, week or even year.

Through common meeting times, teachers looked at PARCC evidence statements, resources on the web and realized that they needed to adjust their curricula so it was more rigorous. Their students were learning the skills but now they needed the stamina and focus to get through multiple-step problems. When they meet, the teachers ask, "how are we moving up Bloom's Taxonomy every day and in every lesson? How are we engaging our students with the content, because if they not engaged, they are not learning?"

District Profile	
▪	Schools: 2
▪	Grades Served: PK-6
▪	Total Enrollment: 470
▪	Economically Disadvantaged: 18.7%

Michelle Mahon explains, "kids' needs are constantly changing and we need the space to figure out what works best for them. We use data to target those needs." Mahon explains that the district works hard to celebrate growth. In terms of reading levels, Mahon says, "it's hard to move from an A to an F [level]. But if you can move from A to B, and B to C, students have a sense of accomplishment because they know they're growing." Teacher Kelly Carney adds, "because we're in classrooms with our students all day, the administration trusts that we know what works best for our students. Our knowledge is valued. I truly feel respected here."

Washington teachers attribute students' growth, particularly with all subgroups, to a supportive Board of Education and administration who like to say "yes" to new ideas to help students and resources to make sure students have educators, technology and bright and flexible spaces.

At Washington, every teacher is responsible for getting every single child the supports they need. Extra help is provided in grades four to six through a "panther block," during which every teacher and aid work with individual students or small groups for intensified supports. Students are grouped for each and every math unit based on pre-tests and other data. Accordingly, each child receives the targeted help they need and they are not placed in one group for the entire year or even semester. Teachers state that they feel empowered and supported to innovate and try new ways to inspire children to learn, grow and ultimately meet their standards.

Ask Washington Township to tell their story:

- Flexible seating
- Individualized "Panther Time"
- Flexible Math Groups
- Educators bring back professional learning
- Lighter, brighter spaces requested by teachers



Contact Information:

- Superintendent: Mr. Keith Neuhs; kneuhs@washtwpsd.org; (908)689-1602