

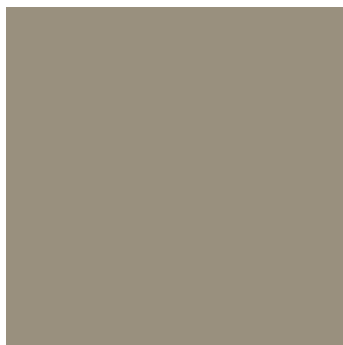


Shared Classroom Initiative



Community of Practice – Shared Classroom Initiative

Clare Arnold
Director of Curriculum and Professional Development
North Smithfield Schools



Community of Practice

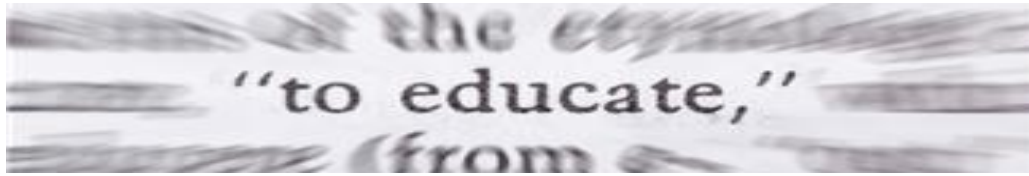
Shared Classroom Initiative

This year all K-12 ELA and Math teachers are participating in our **Community of Practice – Shared Classroom Initiative**. The purpose is to generate meaningful conversations about pedagogy by organizing opportunities for teachers to ‘share’ our classrooms as way of exchanging ideas.

The premise of the initiative is simple; by visiting other classrooms within our district we can gain exposure to varied teaching practices,

reflect on our own practices and encourage conversation about the art and craft of teaching. In addition, this initiative will serve as another vehicle to ensure that our curriculum is articulated and aligned K-12.

The development of this initiative stemmed from last year’s “K-12 Math Tours.” Groups of teachers “toured” each other’s classrooms, this project received positive feedback from all teachers involved: host teachers and invited guests.



Feedback From Teachers has been Tremendous

Karen Ryan, a High School English teacher wrote to Corinne Ferri, our fourth grade host teacher:

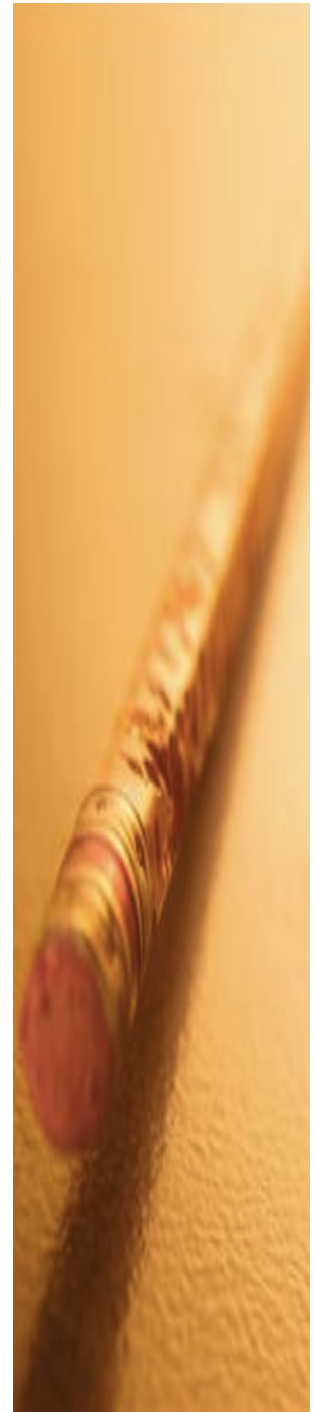
“Thank you for having us! Going into your classroom was a really refreshing experience for me. I was reminded of what pure teaching and learning look like. Your classroom is extremely well-managed, and it is obvious that both you and your students love learning. I loved how positive everyone was, and the culture that you have established in your classroom, that all the students in that room are able to achieve and even surpass high standards, is inspiring.

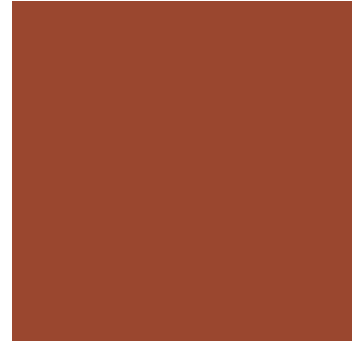
I asked two girls how they felt about writing and they told me that they "loved it". Another little boy

explained what a simile was to me, something that 9th graders sometimes have a hard time doing. Something else that stood out to me was the wait time that you allowed all of your students. It never felt awkward, and I could tell the students felt safe as they searched their own brains for answers. I am hoping to get better at that in my own classroom. The modeling of student work was another highlight of my visit. I could tell it was an established routine, and the students seemed genuinely excited to showcase their work.”

We are looking forward to continuing this initiative through out the 14-15 school year and are truly grateful for the professionalism, enthusiasm and participation of our teachers.

A Special
“thanks”
goes out to
our “host
teachers.”





General Information:

The development of this initiative stemmed from last year's "K-12 Math Tours." Groups of teachers "toured" each other's classrooms, this project received positive feedback from all teachers involved: host teachers and invited guests.

Who: All K-12 ELA and Math Teachers

What: Community of Practice – Shared Classroom Initiative

Where: Groups of teachers will visit a classroom (not within your own building) during each of the three "Curriculum and Instruction Refinement Days"

When: Dates for the ELA/Math "Curriculum and Instruction Refinement Days" are posted on Curriculum website. Each

grade level/department will meet for three full days throughout the 14-15 school year.

Why: To generate meaningful conversations about pedagogy by organizing opportunities for teachers to 'share' our classrooms as way of exchanging ideas.

How: To sign up to be a 'host' teacher, simply add your name to the shared Google Doc. A representative from each grade level/dept. will email a host teacher to schedule a visit.



Supporting the Launch of ELA and Mathematics Curriculum

This grant-funded initiative is a multifaceted project supporting the launch of ELA and Mathematics Curriculum implementation aligned to the Common Core Standards.

To propel and support the implementation, all K-12 Mathematics/ELA teachers (by grade/department) will work in professional learning communities to refine and support instruction. Each grade level/department will meet for two to three full days.

Teachers will share experiences with the new curriculum, identify successful strategies as well as barriers to implementation.

In addition, we will develop a system and structure for teachers to visit classrooms throughout the district. By visiting other classrooms, it will give us a chance to share practices and ensure our instruction is aligned. I would really love it if each team chose to visit a classroom from a different school than their own.



**Teachers
supporting
Teachers**

