

Middle School PLC Parent Letter: May 7, 2018

Dear Middle School Parents -

In recent years, research has shown that one of the most powerful ways to foster teacher dialogue, enhance professional development, and increase student success is by establishing Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). Professional Learning Communities, or PLCs, are teams of teachers from like grade levels or content areas meeting regularly as a collaborative team to analyze student learning and best practice to improve student outcomes.

Three big ideas guide the work of PLCs. First, is the idea that all students can and will learn at high levels. Second, is the idea that all teachers engage as collaborative teams. Third, is the idea that teachers use the results of student assessments to increase student outcomes. In order to provide teachers with the time they need to work collaboratively, a group of administrators, grade-level teachers, and I worked together to find time in the current day for teacher collaboration. Our work resulted in schedule modifications at the elementary and high school levels. Since middle school teachers have the opportunity to meet collaboratively during the Resource Activity (RA) period, it was agreed upon that we would not make any schedule modifications to the existing middle school schedule.

My team and I are planning to closely analyze the middle school schedule during the 2018-2019 school year to find time for additional teacher collaboration and student intervention and enrichment. Currently, 7th and 8th Grade students can attend clinic after school to receive help. However, our district's goal is to embed true intervention and enrichment time into the regular school day so all students have access to either academic support or advanced learning opportunities.

I invite you to review the attached FAQ to learn more about PLCs. As Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, I fully support teacher collaboration and student intervention/enrichment time and am excited for Council Rock to become a leader in these areas.

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Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning