

Study Group Proposal
Chinook Elementary 2002-2003

Problem Based Learning

1. Research question and its importance

Does the regular use of problem-based questions as well as regular feedback from scored problems using a 5/6 point rubric with k-6 students lead to increased achievement on such tasks?

Our students are not scoring well on their benchmark tests in this area. We want to do everything we can to ensure that our students have been given the groundwork to become creative and capable problem-solvers in life as well as in school.

2. Relationship of question to overall school improvement

a) Math problem-solving (problem-based learning) is one of our school goals this year. Students are not scoring as well as we would like on standardized measures in this area.

b) We need to increase our competence as educators in the teaching of problem-solving. We recognize that many of us did not emerge from our teacher training with strong skills or concept knowledge in this area.

3. Plan of inquiry

a) Study Group will read *Teaching Problems and the Problems of Teaching* by Magdalene Lampert over the course of the year. Participants will meet monthly afterschool.

b) Participants will attend three UAA Math methods classes

c) Each month the entire staff will facilitate at least one Exemplar (Math Task from Vermont notebooks) with their students. Teachers will bring the student work back to their study group and/or the monthly staff meeting to discuss student performance and teacher learnings. They will then formulate a plan for ways to present the next math tasks/exemplars to their students.

d) Three times over the course of the year, the Chinook staff will meet with the Rogers Park staff during inservice days in order to analyze and discuss student work samples from the math tasks used in their classrooms. Rogers Park is focusing on math this year as well and is our "sister school".

4. Key participants

Jan Parmalee -- FIR--will present at inservice and consult with teachers as requested

Leslie Vandergaw -- Principal--will help facilitate needs of group, ex. book purchasing, inservice and staff meeting planning

Sheryl Martin

Gale O'Connell-Smith---will coordinate scheduling of study group

Vija Kania

Lori Brewi

Kim Grimes

Kristy Vlahovich

5. Budget

Addenda--1,100.00

Substitutes--600.00

Books ---300.00