We need to teach our students to read like writers.... and write like readers....

Kelly Gallagher
Focus Writing Prompt:

When I was in school, writing was.....
LMSD Interschool Council Presentation

October 8, 2013

Barbara Giorgio
Supervisor of Secondary Humanities
Lower Merion/PAWLP Partnership

...a 3 year plan to develop and implement a consistent, research-based 6-12 writing program with effective instructional practices...
Statement of need:

- We have a Strategic Plan goal of establishing a 6-12 Writing Program.
- Pa Core Standards place equal weight on reading and writing (as opposed to previous PDE standards in which writing was not emphasized).
Statement of need continued...

- Currently, the amount of writing taught and practiced is dependent on individual teachers.
- Philosophies and strategies around writing instruction are highly varied.
- Without unified teacher training and a common program, this inconsistent approach to writing instruction will continue.
Why not purchase a research-based program and provide professional development for teachers?

PaCSS call for secondary students to be able to write with sophistication of skill and thought. A program is a tool which cannot be successfully utilized without teacher training, investment, and experience. If we train teachers in researched best practice, we can develop a program tailored to our needs.
How can our teachers develop a program when there is currently so little continuity?

They must first become well-versed in the research of what constitutes quality writing and instruction of writing.

Pennsylvania Writing and Literature Project has been helping teachers acquire that knowledge and best practice for 33 years.
PAWLP

One of the longest standing branches (among over 200 nationally) of the National Writing Project (began in 1974 and the founding source for the “teachers-training-teachers model” of professional development).

NWP Mission:
- a future where every person is an accomplished writer, engaged learner, and an active participant in a digital interconnected world.
NWP/PAWLP Core Principles

- Writing can and should be taught, not just assigned, at every grade level.
- Knowledge about the teaching of writing comes from many sources: theory & research, analysis of practice, and the experience of writing.
- There is no single right approach to teaching writing; however, some practices prove to be more effective than others.
Core principles continued...

Teachers who are well informed and effective in their practice can be successful teachers of other teachers as well as partners in educational research, development and implementation.
PAWLP Partnership

- Ongoing professional development for teachers and administrators both at WCU and also in district
- Summer Institutes which produce Fellows/Teacher Consultants
- Turn-around Training of teachers by teachers
- Leadership in development of writing program tailored to Lower Merion
Current LM PAWLP Fellows:

- Barbara Giorgio
- Dr. Lorraine DeRosa
- Lee Reilly (BCMS)**
- Janet Chung (WVMS)**
- Jennifer Swetland (WVMS)
- Barbara Ransom (HHS)
- Patricia Roessner (HHS)
- Sarah Ortiz (PWES)
- Judy Allison (GES)**

**We have sponsored via this initiative
LMSD Teachers Currently enrolled:

- **BCMS:**
  - Andy Tzbari – Social Studies
  - Dr. Rachel Nichols – Gifted Education
  - Jennifer Ward – Literacy Specialist
  - Amanda Groen – English
  - Jeffrey Lee – English
  - Moira Messick – Communiqu

- **LMHS**
  - Chad Henneberry – Social Studies
  - ‘Brian Mays – English
  - Jean Mastriano - English
LMSD Teachers Currently enrolled:

continued...

- **WVMS:**
  - Kenneth Vaughn - Social Studies
  - Miriam Dubashi - English
  - Betsy Lawley - English

- **HHS:**
  - Chris Santa Maria - Social Studies
  - Matt Scullen - Social Studies
  - Donald Plump - English
3 year Plan

guided by:

Dr. Mary Buckelew, PAWLP Director
and
Barbara Giorgio
Year 1: 2013-14

- Support as many teachers as possible in becoming Fellows of PAWLP and offering PRP and other opportunities
- Begin work of Writing Committee comprised of in-district PAWLP Fellows
- Work closely with Dr. Leslie Pratt and Dr. Rachel Nichols
Professional Development (PRP)

- Summer 2013: 2 2-day Writing Academies with Dr. Andy Fishman, former Director of PAWLP and author of PDE Writing Domains & Rubric, and Barbara Giorgio
- PRP’s offered for cross-curricular literacy learning
- Teachers attend literacy workshops etc. at PAWLP and elsewhere
Year 2

- Continue to send teachers to PAWLP Institute
- Continue LM PAWLP writing academy
- LM PAWLP Fellows share with colleagues
- Writing Program Development
Year 3

- Fall: Finalize writing of program
- Align with K-5 Writing Program
- Spring: Begin implementation
We need to teach our students to read like writers.... and write like readers.....

Kelly Gallagher