

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 PAWLPI Institute
- Continue LM PAWLPI writing academy
- LM PAWLPI Fellows share with colleagues
- Writing Program Development

Year 3

- Fall: Finalize writing of program
- Align with K-5 Writing Program
- Spring: Begin implementation

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