Irvine Unified School District

Continuous Improvement Efforts
2019-2020
“If there is any one secret of success, it lies in the ability to get the other person’s point of view and see things from his angle as well as your own.”  Henry Ford
CI Efforts: Student Shadowing

- 231 students shadowed in 17-18
- 252 students shadowed in 18-19
- 35/39 schools participated in 17-18
- 37/40 schools participated in 18-19

Student Shadowing will continue as a vehicle to support continuous improvement
Shifting Our Focus
Data Collection Questions

- When were you so engaged in a classroom activity that you lost track of time? What about that activity was so engaging?

- What causes you to struggle with learning?

- What needs to happen in a classroom for you to master a concept?
Data Collection Questions

- What is something another student did that helped you learn?
- What is something that another student did that inhibited your learning?
- As an educator, what was your most important insight from the day and how will it inform your teaching in the future?
When were you so engaged in a classroom activity that you lost track of time?

Writing stories
Reading
Free Choice Centers
Working with a partner
Mystery Science
When I can be active and out of my seat
During group work
Solving math problems
What causes you to struggle with learning?

- Noise
- Insufficient time to process
- Excessive amounts of work
- Too much lecture
- When teachers “info dump”
- Sleep deprivation
- Sitting too long
- Too much rote memorization
The sheer volume of material without time to process it causes me to struggle with learning.

10th grader
What needs to happen in a classroom for you to master a concept?

- Working in a group
- Working with a partner
- Time to practice
- Check-ins with teacher
- Specific feedback
- Modeling
- Time to ask questions
- Understanding why an idea is important and how it’s connected
“When we’re interested in a task, we work harder and persist longer, bringing more of our self-regulatory skills into play. Skill develops with a will...”

Gallagher & Kittle
What is something another student did that helped you learn?

- Asked me questions
- Provided constructive criticism
- Explained a difficult concept
- Answered my question
- Translated the directions into my language
- Shared a different way to solve a problem
- Offered a different perspective
When other students ask me questions, I can assess my own understanding which helps me recognize when I don’t understand something.

9th Grader
What is something another student did that inhibited your learning?

- Talking about unrelated topics
- Making noise
- Not wanting to be my partner
- Not being included in the group discussion
- Asking the teacher for help, before we can figure it out
- Telling me the wrong answer
- Passing judgment
As an educator, what was your most important insight from the day and how will it inform your teaching in the future?
The Importance of...

- Connecting to student interests
- Providing processing time
- Allowing student choice
- Ensuring clarity of expectations
- Understanding the power of peer to peer learning and small groups
- Incorporating movement
- Providing brain breaks
- Varying methodology
What Works?
Pre- K- Grade 12

Movement = engagement
Modeling
Small groups
Cross curricular activity
Empathetic learning environments - kids are “seen”
Student choice
Learning by doing
Mental/physical breaks
What will I do differently?

- More student choice, even if it takes time on my end
- I will commit to slowing down and seeing the students, really seeing them
- Incorporate more movement into the classroom
- Consider student experience on par with content
- Be more empathetic with my kids - reframe my thinking to consider their life struggles more
What will I do differently?

- Define rigor and intellectual risk taking
- Pause before speaking with my students; be more cognizant of my tone
- Focus on what empowers and encourages students
- Make an effort to democratize the classroom and empower students to be co-authors of their learning
- Be more personal, vulnerable to students
“Could a greater miracle take place than for us to look through each other’s eye for an instant?”

Henry David Thoreau