



Engaged students
High levels of achievement
Quality teaching

Conversation Guide

Rethinking High School: Intentional Conversations Around Moving Forward With High School Redesign

Creating a Collaborative Culture - Supporting Professional Learning for High School Redesign, Carol Koran, Catholic Central High School, Lethbridge AB
Grades 10-12, 760 Students, Phase 1

Essential to supporting the change in culture that is a part of High School Redesign, is the importance of providing opportunities for staff to achieve greater collaboration to truly see themselves as a community of educators who support learning in all its forms. Strategies to support new and less experienced teachers who join us "mid-stream" in our high school redesign journey are also part of the challenge. At Catholic Central, we have devoted time and resources to ensuring that staff have these opportunities - to collaborate and celebrate during "team" attendance at conferences, to share expertise and support each other during our staff meeting/PD days, to experiment and innovate with cross-curricular projects.

We invite you to use this conversation guide along with this presentation to engage in a dialogue about innovative high school practice.

Consider using this recording with staff, parents and/or students. What might be some of the outcomes you would highlight as you consider these different audiences?

Moving Forward with High School Redesign is about more than simply shifting a timetable. It's about shifting mindsets. The shift in mindset to a focus on student-centered learning happens as a number of key practices are put in place, including personalizing learning, intentionally developing meaningful relationships, creating rigorous and relevant learning opportunities, and supporting mastery learning. Schools that are focused on innovative, collaborative, comprehensive, and meaningful learning opportunities, are showing evidence of increasing student engagement and success.

Key Understandings:

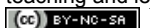
Strategies to achieve a collaborative culture include:

- Having a vision that is articulated, data-driven, visible and student-centered.
- Promoting distributed leadership and the belief that everyone can contribute purposefully to make a difference.
- Focusing resources and time on authentic professional learning with teams of teachers learning together and sharing their new knowledge with the group.
- Embedding opportunities for cross-discipline collaboration in already established settings and routines.

Questions for Discussion:

1. What is the culture of professional learning within your school community?
2. What structures are already in place at your site to support collaborative professional learning?
3. What time and resources are allocated to support professional learning?
4. How could staff collaboration enhance more student centered pedagogical practices within your school?

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