

STAFF DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER, 2016

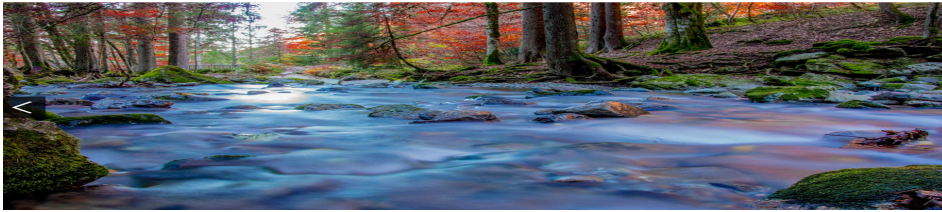


Image from National Geographic

*True happiness involves the full
us of one's power and talents. -
John Gardner*

FRAME OF MIND

Charlotte Danielson states it best about instructional rounds, “A commitment to professional learning is important, not because teaching is of poor quality and must be ‘fixed,’ but rather because teaching is so hard that we can always improve it. No matter how good a lesson is, we can always make it better. Every professional teacher has a responsibility to be involved in a career-long quest to improve practice.” Our quest to improve as educators requires the right state of mind and a willingness to improve individually as educators. This mindset can be seen first hand everywhere you look in our world. A business owner improving their business model, scientist searching for a cure to cancer, farmers utilizing new technology in seeds, and teachers improving their craft of teaching. Instructional rounds, is about lifelong learning and being a model for what we want our own students to be. Fisher explains, “lifelong learning is an essential challenge for inventing the future of our societies; it is a necessity rather than a luxury to be considered ... It is a mindset and a habit for people to acquire. It creates the challenge to understand, explore, and support new essential dimensions of learning such as: (1) self-directed learning, (2) learning on demand, (3) informal learning, and (4) collaborative and organizational learning.” Fischer explains that lifelong learning “requires progress and an integration of new theories, innovative systems, practices, and assessment.” For teachers, putting in this kind of lifelong work will help better amplify their capabilities, collaborate with colleagues, and transform in turn the way their students navigate the world. 1.) Lifelong learning can help teachers deal with challenges of the job. When we can embrace our challenges and are willing to look at ways to solve our problems it becomes more about the solutions and not the problem. 2.) The best learning happens on the job. When you think about instructional rounds I think you will find that these experiences will be some of your best learning. 3.) Lifelong learning fosters creativity. Whenever we see our peers willing to do something it opens the door for us to try new things. 4.) Innovative teachers are lifelong learners. Being innovative requires us to have a learning frame of mind. Our goal is to get to the classroom level of professional development. We must see first hand the planning, addressing content, relationships, engagement, and assessing learning in the classroom to stir our own thoughts about our practice to confirm what we are doing and to try new things. I know that this process can be a little scary, but put trust in yourself and your PLC team to help your quest of being a lifelong learner. Have a great rest of the week and enjoy this warm fall weather!

The school district of Seward, in cooperation with parents and community, affirms that all students will have the skills to become productive and contributing members of a global community. The district is committed to the development of each student academically, emotionally, socially and physically.

