

Klein Oak High School

Klein Independent School District

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Schools Transforming Learning

Under the leadership of Dr. Brian Greeney, Klein Oak High School has been moving toward transforming learning since 2013. The campus culture promotes constant work towards transforming the structure of the campus organization, use of team learning standards, use of a variety of assessments and accountability for learning, and digital learning.

One of the first steps towards transformation was Dr. Greeney changing the structure of the campus organization. An Instructional Leadership Team, that was comprised of teacher leaders, was created to directly target and identify areas of growth needed on the campus for student learning based on performance data and teacher feedback. The teacher leaders went to teams with ideas and solicited feedback to determine what was needed to grow the PLC structure and best support learning for our students. It was decided that, each PLC would identify the essential standards (see attached essential standards chart) from their curriculum and strategically plan to mold strong initial instruction and create strong and meaningful interventions for student learning. They worked to develop our current mission statement: “Empowering Lives through Learning”. This statement became the vision our campus needed to support through *actions*.

With a relentless commitment to learning how all students can learn at high levels with structured support, it was determined that the campus needed to alter the 2014-15 bell schedule (see attachments) and create an intentional RTI system (see attachment) built into the school day. Klein Oak uses the three tiered intervention model. Using teacher feedback and campus data provided by “data managers” (The data manager responsibilities include providing common assessment data to teams in a timely and clear manner so teachers can move beyond the collection phase and into analysis and self-reflection.) The schedule was reconfigured to allow for built in Response to Intervention three times a week and built in PLC time 2 times a week. High stakes teams (English I, English II and Algebra I) have PLC built in daily. This schedule changed again in 2016-17 to allow for a daily intervention period. Teams now meet at least two times per week, with many times having common planning periods. This system has helped to improve student performance in many areas, including state standards based tests. (see attachment)

Within the framework of their teams teachers were given the task of creating new ways to assess learning. Several teachers from our English I and English II teams moved to using the “Reader-Writer Workshop” model at the high school level. These teachers created common

rubrics to use in assessment of student work, assessments were based on skills learned versus content of novel, and multiple types of writing assignments, digital anthologies and literature circles were used to assess for student learning. Math classes began using an initial assessment and then re-teaching based on student need. A second assessment was then given and teachers allowed students to receive a grade up to a 100. Geometry classes will now start pre-assessments to allow students to test out of a unit so that extension lessons can be given to those students that have already mastered those essential standards.

As a campus, Klein Oak High School has truly evolved into a school that integrates technology to make an authentic learning experience for our students. We focus on ways our students can collaborate with each other on our campus and with students outside of Klein Oak High School. For example, our English II students are video conferencing with students from Norway learning about each other's culture, food, and geography. These students are so excited to be able to communicate in real time asking each other questions and showing each other their classrooms. Klein Oak also offers teachers various virtual learning environments to enhance student learning by encouraging students to take responsibility for their own learning. These environments include content/learning management systems such as Blackboard, Google Classroom, and TES Blendspace. Teachers use the Flipped Classroom model utilizing technology to reverse the traditional delivery of information. At home, students watch online instructional videos, perform research, and participate in online discussions. The classroom then becomes more learner-centered, where students practice the concepts with the guidance of their teachers.

Klein Oak High School is a school that is truly transforming learning. Our community of educators, students and community embrace the change and growth that happens here on a daily, monthly and yearly basis. Our vision is creating a learner that is able to enter society college-ready and/or able to enter the workforce with skills to be competitive in the ever changing workplace market.