

Mark Vance
TBT Reflection

Description:

The district I work for requires grade level teachers to meet once a week as a team to discuss various aspects specific to the grade level they teach. Art teachers have just been expected to pick a grade level and participate in their TBT meeting. I was approached to find a way for the elementary art teachers to meet as a team. The solution was to meet in the mornings via Google Hangout and use a shared Google Form that all teachers could share information.

Impact:

The impact this has had has been great. Never before have I had so much exposure to the other elementary teachers in the district. There is only one art teacher in each of the 7 buildings. Due to this we are isolated and do not have anyone to bounce ideas off of or problem solve any issues. These weekly meetings have helped to create meaningful relationships between the art teachers and have helped to improve our curriculums. The fact that the technology allows us to see each other all at the same time helps to build these relationships. We work on integrating writing into our classes and discuss different teaching methods to help improve student learning. We share data and explore what works and what does not. I feel a connection to these teachers that I never felt before.

Intent:

The intent is to continue these weekly meetings and find ways to work more writing into the art curriculum. By doing this the students will improve their writing skills and see the value of being a competent writer. We are all very focused on project-based assessments but by meeting we are starting to expand our assessments. Not only is this helping our student it is making us better teachers.