

COLLABORATION AT COLONY HIGH 2010

Colony High School is located between the towns of Wasilla and Palmer in the Mat-Su Valley.

Question: In what way can we improve student learning through collaborating/using instructional coaching to increase the percentage of assignments our students complete and submit?

Our staff developed this question at the beginning of the year during a professional development day.

❖ Leadership

Our focus on collaboration has led staff members to take charge in new ways, particularly in regard to professional development days. Staff members have collaborated to create two separate full PD days, one aimed at instructional coaching, and the other focused on improving instructional methods to increase student engagement.



We began our journey with AEIN two years ago, with a deliberate concentration on observation and collaboration. Once we saw the beginnings of relationships forming as a result of that work, we knew we wanted to continue. Collaboration has created a community of staff members who now organize and deliver our school's professional development days. We benefit from each other's willingness to share expertise, and we are confident in each other's willingness to listen and learn.

CHS Staff said,

"That was one of the best inservice days ever!"

"There was [so] much going on. Learned a LOT!!"

COLONY

❖ Professional Learning

Staff have engaged in multiple Focused Learning Teams, each one studying a different professional text. One group read and worked with Jim Knight's *Instructional Coaching: A Partnership Approach*. Another group studied Robert Marzano's *Classroom Assessment and Grading That Work*.

❖ Classroom Practice

Five staff members attended a conference on making productive classrooms with Spence Rogers and created a professional development presentation demonstrating instructional techniques that heighten student engagement.

