

English Department Analysis

1. **How are the department's curriculum and instructional strategies aligned with the school's desired results for student learning (DRSLs)?**

We focus not only on teaching literacy, but also verbal communication through presentations and group projects, and we use the technology we have available to ensure that students are ready for the demands of employment in the future.

2. **How does each course offering align with the state's Core Curriculum, which prescribes content and course specific intended learning outcomes?**

At the start of the school year we took the time to map out the year in order to guarantee that we could cover the Core Curriculum.

3. **To what extent does the department utilize a variety of assessments to monitor student achievement and adjust instructional practices?**

We begin each unit with a pre-assessment, end each unit with a comprehensive assessment, and utilize formative assessments every day in class. The formative assessments cover a wide range of information gathering techniques that show us which students are not understanding the work, and we adjust our lessons appropriately.

4. **How does the department collaborate with other departments to create integrated, relevant and authentic learning opportunities for students?**

We collaborate our lessons to correspond with history classes, and we have our classes back to back, so that students get twice the exposure, and potentially twice the time to work on assignments. Field trips are also great learning opportunities that involve all of the students because we are so flexible in helping each other when they have a large-scale idea to teach.

5. **To what extent do department members utilize inclusionary teaching strategies to meet the needs of ALL students (ESL, special education, gifted, etc)?**

We scaffold every new concept, and we differentiate instruction so that there is at least some aspect of every learning type over the course of a unit.

6. **To what degree are the department's policies, operational procedures, and allocation and use of resources aligned with the educational agenda of the school?**

We set clear, high expectations, value the opinion of all students, and encourage students to maintain a safe learning environment, so that students can cultivate character, responsibility, and self-motivation as they prepare for college and career.

7. **How does the department collaborate and engage in ongoing professional development growth for the purpose of improving student performance?**

We participate in professional development at least once a month and during the summer, and we collaborate with each other on Fridays and often at the start of a new unit.

8. **How do students have access to additional support beyond the classroom?**

Teachers come to school early and stay late in order to help students that are struggling and need extra help. We are also accessible by email and phone.

9. **How do students have access to and utilize technology as a regular part of the instructional program?**

In the classroom we have a Smartboard and projectors, which are used every day, and we occasionally utilize laptops.

10. **How does current staffing and certification meet current program needs?**

Our English teachers are highly qualified, and they teach not only core classes, but electives as well, that instruct students in a spectrum of English concepts.

11. **How is the department collectively addressing the school's current school improvement goals?**

We are working on our accreditation, and collaborating to ensure we are teaching towards our DRSLs.

Areas of Strength:

The English department is constantly acquiring new class sets of books and technologies, and we are able to adapt the students' learning every year. We work heavily with the Special Education department to ensure that students with IEPs receive the support they need.

Recommendations for Growth:

Research is difficult at the present moment because we have a lack of computers at our school. In order to fulfill the requirements of the new common core, we need to increase our technology base. Currently, our classes are full or overflowing, so as we continue to grow we need to build a separate high school to accommodate them.