



Beatrice Middle School

MESSENGER

Randy Schlueter, Principal
David Kraus, Assistant Principal
Betsy Spilker, Counselor
Amy Randel, Counselor

PRINCIPAL POINTS with RANDY SCHLUETER

Learning has been the primary focus of the staff at Beatrice Middle School during the early release days during the 2008 – 2009 school year. The staff members at BMS are part of the Professional Learning Communities (PLC's) that has been the emphasis for the Beatrice Public School system. The middle school has eight professional learning communities within the building; the six core teams, the exploratory team, and the special education team. All staff members meet monthly during early release to develop learning strategies that will be refined within their team meetings. Each learning team works together to implement the learning goals to meet the needs of the students on their team.

Professional Learning Communities

An Overview

Definition

"...A professional Learning Community is a collaboration of teachers, administrators, parents, and students, who work together to seek out best practices, test them in the classroom, continuously improve processes, and focus on results." *Rick DuFour, 2002*

Fundamental Assumptions

1. We can make a difference: Our schools can be more effective
2. Improving our people is the key to improving our schools.
3. Significant school improvement will impact teaching and learning.

The ONE Thing

in a

Professional Learning Community,
 "learning" rather than "teaching"
 is the fundamental purpose
 of your school

Three Big Ideas

Focus on Learning
 Collaboration
 Focus on Results

Four Corollary Questions

1. What should students know and be able to do as a result of this course, class, or grade level?
2. How will we know that the students are not learning?
3. How do we respond when students do not learn?
4. How do we respond when students learn more?

