Building Academic Language

Homework for 12/10/15

This year's Professional Development focuses on concepts and practices that will help us improve students' academic language.

In the first two PD sessions you have been introduced to the concept of "academic language" (as distinct from social language), to the concept of tiered vocabulary (which can help you select the most significant words on which to focus your vocabulary instruction), and to a variety of techniques that you can use to increase students' command of academic vocabulary and/or increase the quantity and quality of student-to-student academic conversation in your practice.

In preparation for the third PD session on 12/10/15, please do the following:

1) Select at least one of the techniques for building academic vocabulary or academic conversation that is new to you and plan to implement it in at least three lessons or interactions with students prior to 12/10/15.

2) Be sure to review the relevant information from PD sessions so that your plans to implement the technique are informed by “best practice” regarding that type of activity. (E.g. Word walls are more effective if created with student input and accompanied by activities that engage students with the wall; academic conversations are most successful if they are built around meaningful tasks, if students are held accountable and if the talk structure is clear)

3) Implement your technique in three separate lessons or three interactions with students and make adjustments as necessary.

4) Make some brief notes on successes and challenges after each of the three trials. (A bulleted list is fine).

Bring with you on 12/10:

The completed worksheet on the reverse side and relevant related documents
Academic Language Homework for 12/10/15

Name: ___________________________ Position/Role: ___________________________

Primary Location: Brayton Sullivan/Colgrove Greylock Drury/E3 Johnson District

Selected Technique: _________________________________________________________

Dates of Implementation *(3): ______________ ______________ ______________

Reflection: Please respond to 2 of the 3 following questions in your reflection:

1) Looking back on your 3 lessons/interactions implementing vocabulary techniques, were any elements of your lessons/interactions more effective than others? Did some aspects of your implementations need re-working? What would you do differently to improve/enhance the implementation of this technique in the future?

2) What were your assumptions about your students’ background knowledge and skills in relation to the selected vocabulary or students talk technique you chose to implement? Were these assumptions correct? How did your selected technique meet the needs of your learners?

3) How would you rate the success of your implementation on increasing student talk? How would you implement the best aspects of your implementation in future lessons/interactions or share with your colleagues to improve student learning?

Evidence*: Attach/ bring relevant documents/materials created/photos related to this work for 12/10.

NOTE: A list/description of all the techniques we have introduced will be posted on the district website under STAFF-PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT by November 6th.