



Dr. Myrrha Satow  
Superintendent

Dear Parents, Grandparents, Staff and Students,

In our schools, staff are focused on being a “community of continuous inquiry and improvement”. Development of Professional Learning Communities (PLC's) that continue to improve and inform high quality instruction is the latest important initiative in the design of high performing schools in many states. PLC's are schools where teachers and the administration continuously seek and share learning and act on what we learn. The goal is to continually enhance instructional effectiveness as professionals so that students continually benefit. Some attributes of Professional Learning Communities include:

- Supportive Leadership
- Collective creativity
- Shared values and vision
- Shared best practice
- Purposeful collaboration about students, teaching and learning

A core characteristic of a high functioning PLC is an “unwavering focus on student learning in which each student's potential achievement is purposefully and carefully considered”. This idea of the staff having shared values and vision and a shared responsibility for every student's success is key. “Powerful learning that defines quality teaching and classroom instruction that creates new knowledge about teaching and learning” are also fundamental. Research has found that PLC's ensure a higher likelihood that “teachers are professionally renewed, inspired to inspire students, and help students achieve high expectations”. In addition, significant advances in adapting teaching to individual students have been shown to occur more rapidly than in traditional schools. Most importantly, greater academic gains for students prevail. In sum, through their participation in a PLC, teachers are more effective and student outcomes increase. If you are interested in learning more about PLC's, author Rick DuFour has several publications about them and their effectiveness in raising student achievement as an ongoing process of educational inquiry.

Yours in educational excellence,  
Dr. Myrrha P. Satow, Founder  
Superintendent/CEO