Closing the Gap: Developing a Learning Management System

Title: Learning Management Systems
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Recommendations:
• The staff must believe that creating and evaluating quality; consistent data promotes the best learning management systems.
• Technology is a valuable asset to having the ability to utilize data efficiently.
• All stakeholders must be involved in a properly functioning Learning Management System.
• Curriculum and Assessment must be monitored closely to maintain the educational integrity of the learning management system.

What You Need to Know:
• Learning Management Systems combine: data analysis of trends and longevity of information; student, parent, and teacher educational interaction; and short term decision making based on formative and summative local assessments.
• They give school districts and the stakeholders a way to collaboratively develop a meaningful educational process for students in which there are multiple ways of transferring curriculum and assessment information.
• Educational facilitation does not end at the school-house doors in a properly constructed and maintained learning management system.
Introduction:

Morley Stanwood High School is a central Michigan rural school comprised of nearly 400 students. This year MSHS was recognized by the state of Michigan Department of Education as a reward school for the continual improvement in reading and writing on the MME state assessment. We service a student body that is well over 50% economically disadvantaged along with a high “at-risk” population as determined by a multi-tiered rubric. Working with these two groups can be quite challenging when trying to increase the academic achievement of these students. Our school feels that the challenging Michigan standards along with the upcoming Common Core standards have put our students and parents in challenging position. How can we continue to increase achievement level with little or no support from home because they lack resources? Morley Stanwood’s answer is an effective Learning Management System. This system would allow us to transfer information home to allow further academic growth.

The Challenge:

The list of challenges:

1. Creating staff buy-in to exposing full curriculum to all stakeholders.
2. Preparing and transferring all curricula to digital storage for use.
3. Evaluating curriculum and assessments for data validity
4. Deciding the technological framework to launch the LMS.
5. Developing partnerships with the Intermediate School District to help with data storage and analysis.

The Approach:

Morley Stanwood decided on a three-year timeline to fully launch the LMS. The LMS will be developed through department meetings focused on curriculum development and refinement; year-long continual professional development to create technological capabilities and maintain quality data review, and a school improvement team focused on increasing parent contribution to the education process.

• **YEAR ONE INITIATIVES**
  Teacher will review the curriculums within their departments and begin to transfer them to an electronic form. This includes all assignments, assessments, and other preparatory materials. Teachers will also have a completed scope and sequence for their courses. Committees will be formed to evaluate technological tools (social media) for communication and the transfer of information. Quality data review teams will be created.

• **YEAR TWO INITIATIVES**
  Teachers will begin to electronically forge their classes out to all stakeholders. The continual review of curriculum for quality purposes within departments and school improvement team. The process of streamlining data analysis within the school and partnerships to increase the ability of using data efficiently is focused on.

• **YEAR THREE INITIATIVES**
  The complete transfer of curriculum to the stakeholders electronically takes place. Data is used to make real time classroom decisions and are available to parents. Data continues to grow for longevity and is processed according to partnerships with our local ISD. Increase in student achievement by allowing the educational environment to remain open at all times. RTI initiatives will be created in cooperation with our data to serve student needs efficiently.
The Results:

We have successfully reviewed our curriculum and are now building the scope and sequence. It is taking a bit longer because we switched from trimesters to semesters so time adjustments are a factor. Teachers are now building capacity within the educational website Edmodo to use as our stakeholder communication device. We will combine this tool with our current SMS to create our LMS. This investment of effort is beginning to create real time data for our staff. I can see a definite benefit for all stakeholders in the future.

Educational Value Points:

1. All stakeholders within the Morley Stanwood Community will have access to all curricular items. This helps build transparency and accountability.
2. Students and parents have 24/7 access to coursework students are enrolled.
3. RTI will increase in value because of real time data usage.