

June 30, 2011

RECOMENDATION FOR SUMMERCORE IN A DAY

For a two-year period, technology was the school-wide professional learning theme at University School of Milwaukee. We asked faculty members to create technology professional learning goals and planned academic technology in-services. Our in-service planning committee approached Steve Bergen with the idea of bringing the skills and concepts of his successful Summercore program to a one day in-service here. After much discussion, "Summercore In A Day" was born.

The focus of the in-service was to help faculty members enhance their teaching and students' learning in ways that reflect today's and tomorrow's world. USM is contemplating a 1:1 initiative and our in-service objectives were developed with this initiative in mind. Specifically, the goals were:

- To **explore** current best practices in instruction and student learning
- To **experiment** with the tools and methods of 21st century teaching and learning
- To **expand** our own repertoire of skills and provide individual professional development

Steve brought "a dream team" of expert presenters to USM. The day was divided up into three parts: (1) A two hour morning assembly with the entire faculty. Faculty members participated in a mock 1:1 classroom with 15 USM teachers using Twitter, learning about the power of web 2.0 tools; Skyped with John Palfrey (professor of Law and Vice Dean for Library and Information Resources at Harvard Law School) about Internet safety and intellectual property issues; and learned about Dalton School's laptop initiatives. (2) A one-hour "appetizer" session where faculty members were able to choose from one of six topics to get an overview for future study. (3) A two-hour "main dish" workshop, which allowed faculty to spend time delving into a topic of specific interest.

We received a great deal of positive feedback. Faculty members commented that the sessions encouraged creativity and exploration. All the presentations promoted problem-solving, application, analysis, synthesis, debate, and discussion. As a result, faculty learned about best practices and had the opportunity to acquire new skills to improve not only the use of technology in the classroom but also communication and collaboration among teachers, students, and parents. Steve and his team surpassed our expectations for the day. I am proud to recommend Steve Bergen's Summercore in-service program.

Cordially,



Gregg Bach
Assistant Head of School