

Liza Jackson Preparatory School

How do we increase teacher collaboration and improve best practices in lesson planning?

Overview

After opening in the fall of 2001, Liza Jackson Preparatory School (LJPS) marked its first year by meeting all the requirements to earn an A ranking from the state. In 2012, LJPS ranked 18 out of 3,146 schools in the Florida Department of Education's school ranking system. LJPS operates based on the latest research regarding developmentally-appropriate school structure, curriculum, and practice.

“The use of data to drive instruction is of most importance and Chalk has enabled our school to do this on a sophisticated level.”

Challenge

Each grade consists of three to five groups of students and each of these groups has their own teacher as well as their own designated classroom. These teachers share common planning time and plan instruction and student activities together each day. Lesson planning is important at LJPS because it allows teachers to develop a roadmap for student learning to include objectives for students, teaching and learning activities, as well as strategies for checking student understanding. This leverages the expertise of all the teachers in a given grade level and creates a very supportive professional learning

WEBSITE: WWW.LIZAJACKSON.ORG

TYPE: PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

LOCATED: FORT WALTON BEACH, FL

LEVEL: K-12

STUDENTS: 800+

TEACHERS: 40+

community for the teachers. The fact that Liza Jackson Preparatory School ensures that the teachers have planning time together goes to show how valuable they feel that developing such a professional learning community is. Chalk is proud to be supporting this process as this is a great catalyst to the development of their practice and their ability to focus on improving student learning.

Solution

With Chalk, teachers can spend more time on perfecting lesson content and less time on the logistics of sharing them with one another. Teachers begin by planning together on one set of plans while ensuring compliance with the Florida State Standards and Next Generation Standards. From here, content can be quickly distributed. They then make minor modifications to differentiate each instruction to meet their unique student's needs. In

2014, Liza Jackson Preparatory School identified a need for a collaborative environment for their teachers to share best practice:

- Improve lesson planning structure
- Develop a stronger Professional Learning Community
- Support collaboration amongst teachers.

Liza Jackson Preparatory School favoured Chalk because of peer recommendations and for its:

- Familiar and intuitive user interface
- PLC environment to share content and best practice
- Integration to the Florida State Standards and Next Generation Standards that allows for ease of tracking right within a teacher's planner
- A central resource bank that allows best lesson plans, auxiliary teaching material, or assessment rubrics to be shared.

Results

Within the first year, over 70% of teachers have adopted the system. Teachers are collaborating and saving time, allowing them to give more attention to

the students. With Chalk, teachers are also collaborating more effectively and sharing best practices while consistently tracking to the Florida State Standards and Next Generation Standards.

Chalk continues to work with Liza Jackson Preparatory School in enabling them to serve students, parents, and teachers more effectively, and create innovative solutions for enhanced teaching and learning.

“We are a caring community of learners, dedicated to making the world a better place, through academic preparation, good manners, common sense and 100% effort.”

“With the ability to track standards in Chalk, we are using this data to make better decisions. It provides freedom for teachers without the loss of accountability.”

Leiah Jamison
Curriculum Coordinator