ChalkTalk Advice

At the start of a school year, it can be helpful to remember our aspirations. Here are some from a Chalk Talk at last year’s Autumn Open Training. Feeling inspired? What can you do to improve this year?

What would you change for your students & staff?

- More job security at a specific grade level. Less bumping or displacing...Sometimes a change is good, though!
- Focus on student achievement/instruction, not general school business
- Less worry about what others are or are not doing
- See that it’s not “your students” and “my students” it’s “OUR students”
- Have inspirational leadership
- More cross-grade-level articulation
- A sense of urgency about stuff! YES! Time is of the essence!
- A more trusting environment
- More opportunities for teacher learning and collaboration!
- Provide staff with paid time for planning AND CFGs
- Mandate that all regular education and content area chairs take a course in special education... and reading!
- Create a space to have difficult conversations to move beyond old “hurts”
- Equal access to tools and experiences that others have across the country
- Focus on student achievement/instruction, not general school business
- Embrace creativity!
- Value-added is not just based on test scores
- More $$$
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- Assess formatively for progress and growth!
- Eliminate grades!
- How would you know about success?
- How do you know NOW?
- That teachers and students would understand the relevance and satisfaction of building relationships
- Mandate that all regular education and content area chairs take a course in special education... and reading!
- Create a more trusting environment
- That students would have someone at home to talk to about their day; take a special interest in them, and give them some TLC
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Race is not a predictor of success or lack thereof

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Follow every child on their path and challenge them. Know your students!

Get rid of stuff! Declutter!

Are these connected?

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