

Language Arts Vertical Teams

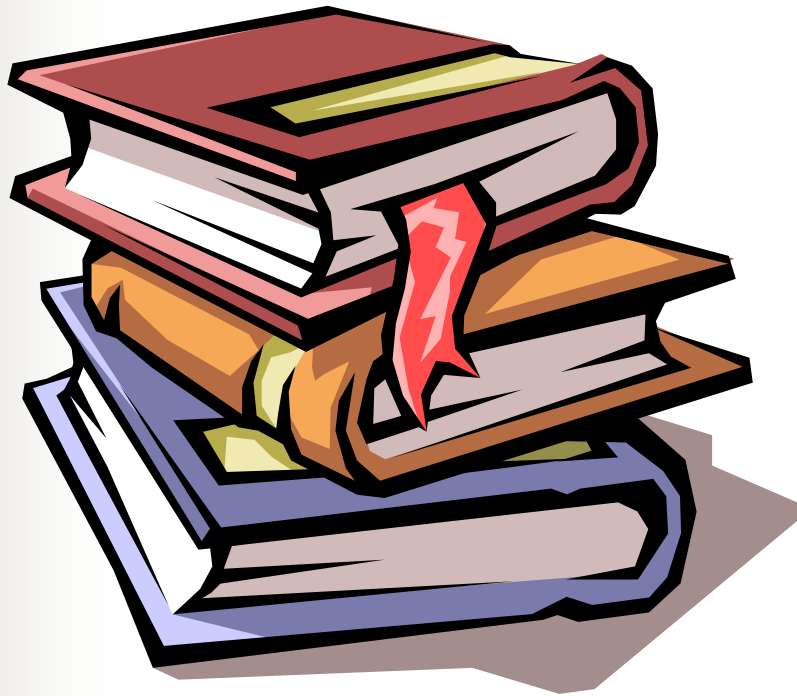




Defining Vertical Teams

- Initiatives designed to equip all middle and high school teachers with strategies and tools needed to:
 - actively engage students
 - provide high-level learning
 - provide habits of mind and concepts needed for success in college

VERTICAL TEAMING in Language Arts

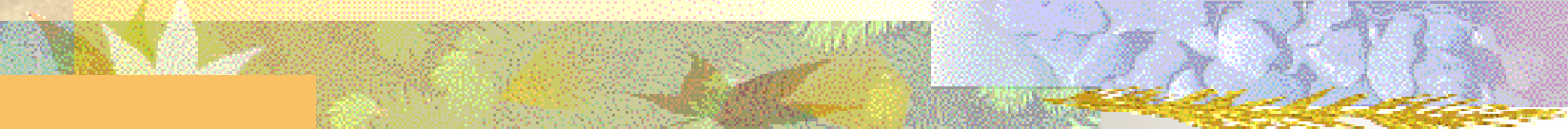


- A group of LA teachers from different grade levels who work cooperatively to develop and implement a vertically aligned curriculum to aid in a student's academic success

Groups were constructed:

- by grade level
- with diversity of subject in mind
- to include Special Education teachers
- from a variety of district locations





Why did we create Vertical Teams?

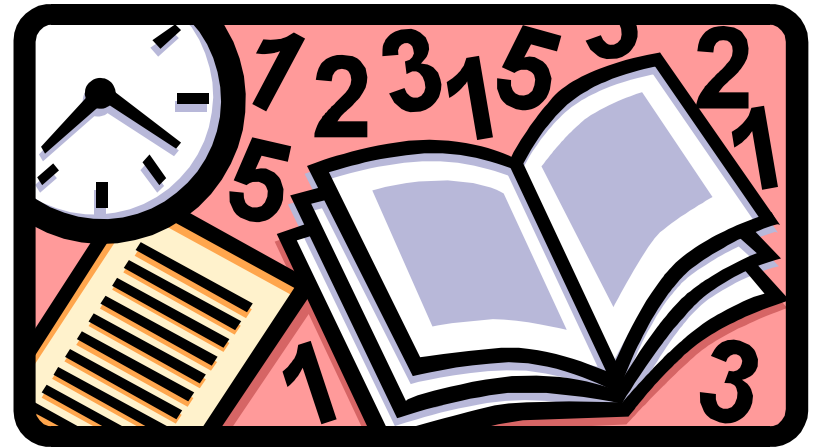
- To improve performance
- To allow for empowerment
- To foster a greater inclusiveness
- To stimulate enthusiasm among educators
- To encourage innovation
- To increase rigor
- To emphasize critical thinking

What happened in the Language Arts Vertical Teams?

- A general exchange of ideas and strategies

- Diction/Word Choice (2005)
 - Syntax

- Close Reading (2006)
 - Timed Writing
 - Writing Samples



And...



- Using non-fiction to reinforce critical thinking, writing skills, punctuation, interdisciplinary connections, literary terminology, and vocabulary
(2007)



In the end...

“The relationship among the adults who operate a school affect the character and quality of a school and the accomplishments of its students more than any other factor.”

-Roland Barth