

Mohonasen Advanced Methods Theory Survey Course | Winter/Spring 2015

Recent changes in education have had a significant impact on the focus of learning, the nature of classrooms, and the roles of teachers and students. There is greater emphasis on developing skills and attitudes needed for life-long learning. The Advanced Methods Theory Survey Course is designed to give those educators who completed previous Methods Theory Survey courses an opportunity to continue to develop their skills and deepen their knowledge in research-based instructional methods. *The course, which is made possible by a NYSED Strengthening Teacher and Leader Effectiveness grant, is intended for those directly involved with instructional delivery in the classroom who completed the Methods Theory Survey courses in 2014, including teachers, administrators and teacher assistants. Enrollment is limited to 15 participants.* Advanced Methods Theory is a blended course, with classroom instruction and group work during each session followed by assignments and group collaboration online. Major topics, to be presented by outside specialists in the field, include: Creating a Culture of Collaborative Inquiry, Key Ideas that Inspire Success in Common Core Writing, Mapping to the Core, Rubric Design, Questioning Strategies and Beyond, Learning Tools for the 21st Century, and Google Classroom. *Participants are required to attend all sessions, and complete all assignments and readings.*

Advanced Methods Theory Survey Schedule

Methods Theory Course sessions will be held on the following dates from 3-5 p.m.

- » Jan. 15
- » Jan. 29
- » Feb. 12
- » Feb. 26
- » March 12
- » March 26
- » April 16

Participants are required to attend all sessions.

Educators who successfully complete the Advanced Methods Theory Survey Course are eligible for a \$500 stipend and 21 professional development hours. *Registration ends Dec. 19. Questions? Call the curriculum office at 356-8205.*

Major topics

Creating a Culture of Collaborative Inquiry

Students learn through their participation in the attainment of knowledge by gathering information and processing it by solving problems and articulating what they have discovered. In an interactive classroom, the goal is to engage, empower, and motivate students. By creating classroom opportunities where students can simulate, discuss, and debate content you will see a major shift in student learning. Discussion will focus on linking content to what motivates and engages youngsters. Participants will leave this session planning to increase student ownership in the classroom so that students are intrinsically motivated because they feel that they have a voice in their own learning.

Key Ideas that Inspire Success in Common Core Writing

Learn how practical strategies and Common Core lessons create a high success atmosphere that improves the writing of ALL students. This is need to know information for effective Common Core instruction giving children the essential skills they need for a lifetime of confident writing. Participants will view a collection of writing samples gathered from K-12 classrooms which will provide a foundation for analysis and discussion that will lead to a deeper understanding of the three writing types described in the Common Core Standards.

Mapping to the Core

The curriculum mapping process is an ongoing and evolving process that helps teachers reflect on instruction and provides guidance to sustain a cohesive curriculum. This session will explore “the why?” and “the how?” of the mapping process providing key strategies to look at your curriculum through a specific lens now that we have more experience with the Common Core Standards. The session will specifically focus on analyzing types and variety of assessments in your content area.

Rubric Design

Rubrics can be used to provide feedback to students on diverse types of assignments, from papers, projects, and oral presentations to artistic performances and group projects. A carefully designed rubric can offer a number of benefits to both teachers and students. This session will focus on designing to types of rubrics: holistic and analytical. Participants will leave the session with a stronger understanding of how to design a rubric that aligns with instructional objectives, standards and how to incorporate more diversified assessment into instruction.

Major topics continued on back

Major topics continued

Questioning Strategies and Beyond

Just as educators are role models for learning, they are role models for asking questions. Think of it this way: Statements, with that period right at the end, bring thinking to a halt. Questions, on the other hand, are what initiate and encourage thinking. And that, of course, is what teachers are trying to do. Imagine how many questions a teacher asks in just one day. There are various ways of classifying questions, with the two most frequent ones being in terms of Bloom's Taxonomy and convergent vs. divergent thinking. Spend time in this session reflecting on strategic questions that will elicit student's understanding and support the shift in students assuming responsibility for the success of a discussion and making contributions to their learning.

Learning Tools for the 21st Century

The 21st century is a time of rapid change, and while the brain may not be changing (much), the tools we use to feed it are. This puts the 21st century teacher in a critical spot—of mastering constantly evolving technology and digital learning tools—the same tools their students use every day. The session will explore some of the exciting web tools of the moment and explain how educators can use them for instruction. Specific tasks and appropriate tool choices will be discussed, as well as sharing helpful examples that have been implemented in classrooms.

Google Classroom and More.....

Classroom is a new tool in Google Apps for Education that helps teachers create and organize assignments quickly, provide feedback efficiently, and easily communicate with their classes. Classroom is available to anyone with Google Apps for Education, a free suite of productivity tools including Gmail, Drive and Docs. It is designed to help teachers create and collect assignments paperlessly, including time-saving features like the ability to automatically make a copy of a Google Document for each student. It also creates Drive folders for each assignment and for each student to help keep everyone organized. Students can keep track of what's due on the Assignments page and begin working with just a click. Teachers can quickly see who has or hasn't completed the work, and provide direct, real-time feedback and grades right in Classroom. Additional Google Apps will also be explored throughout the session.

Advanced Methods Theory Survey Course Registration

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Teaching Assignment/Building: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Advanced Methods Theory sessions will be held on the following Thursdays in the HS LGI: Jan. 15, Jan. 29, Feb. 12, Feb. 26, March 12, March 26, April 16. All courses will run from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Those who successfully complete the Advanced Methods Theory Survey Course will receive a \$500 stipend and 21 professional development hours. *Participants are required to attend all sessions.*

Completed registration forms should be returned to the district curriculum office by Dec. 19.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Questions? Call the Mohonasen Curriculum and Instruction Office at 356-8205