

MAKE YOUR DAY

A SCHOOL-WIDE CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM THAT ALLOWS
TEACHERS TO TEACH AND ALLOWS STUDENTS TO LEARN



[MYD Conference](#),
February 27-28



Mesa, Arizona.



Gathering together



to share knowledge.



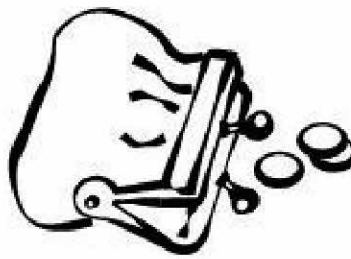
Earl's Corner - Back to Basics?

Sometime during the first year of implementation we often hear comments from teachers that this is the best group of students they have ever worked with in their teaching career. Often, this comment is followed by the statement, "I wish I would have used MYD last year, but I'm not sure it would have worked with those kids." Sometimes, this pay-off does not come until the second year as teachers are learning to implement MYD. Veteran MYD teachers will say it isn't the kids, it's us.

Although, there may be some students or groups of students that require accommodations within the structure of MYD, the vast majority of students are able to succeed with MYD as taught in the initial training. At any point of the year, if it seems like you're suddenly working harder, it is likely an indicator that it's time to go "back to the basics." This strategy always works with academics

and always works with MYD curriculum.

The upcoming holiday season is often a good time to reflect on the structure of MYD in the classroom and the school. As you prepare for Winter Break, it may be of great benefit to send out questionnaires to your students and their families that include gathering information about the implementation of MYD. The feedback that surveys provide will improve the implementation of MYD when everyone returns to school. The fresh input from our students and parents not only redefines our setting, but adds to the ownership that is needed from our community.



Cheryl's Two Cents - Staying the Course

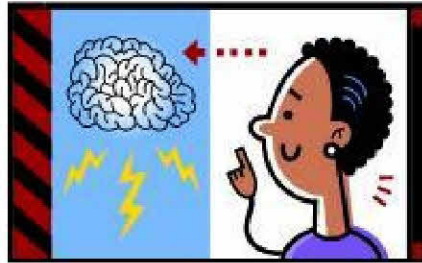
Little things do count when implementing MYD. As teachers, we always begin the year on point with everything that we are implementing. By this time of the year, we've been through at least one holiday, parent conferences and a marking period, which leaves us feeling a little less fresh than we did at the beginning of the year. It's easy to ease up on some of the curriculum that we have in place, such as MYD; however, it's important to stay the course.

Rather than trying shortcuts, it's important to pay more attention to detail if we want to maintain our enthusiasm and energy level until Winter Break.

- *Be more vigilant about beginning each period by stating the academic and behavioral expectations.
- *Be more vigilant about moving around the classroom monitoring academics and behavior.
- *Be more vigilant about providing a timely transition, "In about 5 minutes we're going to do Points and Concerns. Did you do your best in meeting the expectations, which were...? Tell us how you earned your points by sharing something you learned about a someone in the classroom this period."
- *Be more vigilant about correctly following the structure of Points

and Concerns.

In the next section, you'll find out what happened when a school did just that.



Brainstorm: Sharing Ideas

Ford Middle School in Tacoma, Washington has used MYD since the 1998-99 school year and has again positively impacted discipline referrals by modifying the Points script as follows:

We have changed our script at the end of each class period so that students say the following: The student states the number of points earned then says, "I earned my points by... and I take responsibility for..."

We then go through "Concerns and Compliments" during which students may raise Concerns for fellow students or give a compliment.

These small changes have made a positive impact in the way students view the MYD process and is making a change in how the public views the process.

This year in the first three months suspensions are 50% of what they were last year and Step 4's are 66% of last year.

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