

“Teacher Leadership in Professional Development”
A 3-Credit Falmouth Graduate Course
Instructor: Dr. Ken Murphy

This course will focus on one essential question:
How do you design and facilitate good professional learning?

The course will examine the similarities and differences among conventional, congenial, and collegial groups. We will explore the structure, process, and content that characterizes effective meetings. Most importantly, we will consider how to develop professional learning teams that explicitly influence student learning.

Throughout the course, teacher leaders will examine a variety of facilitation and problem-solving strategies that can be put into practice with the groups they are leading. Class activities and readings will explore the following topics to develop an understanding of the essential question that anchors the course:

1. How do teacher leaders and other educators function as a professional learning team?
2. How do successful teacher leaders overcome the barriers in creating PLTs?
3. How do teacher leaders help other educators develop a deeper understanding of content, improve or enhance differentiation or instructional strategies, and/or strategically support executive functioning?
4. What is collective inquiry and how is it used in the context of team learning?
5. How do teacher leaders influence school culture?
6. Why is trust the essential agreement in the development of PLTs?
7. How do teacher leaders create collaborative meetings that result in more individual and organizational learning?
8. How do teacher leaders ensure collaborative time is used effectively?
9. How do teacher leaders identify common end goals for the PLT and plan accordingly?

The course is designed to begin with two longer sessions in June and August to help with PLT initiation, and four shorter follow up sessions to support leaders as the year unfolds. The dates have been scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, June 23, 2009	8:00 a.m. – noon
Friday, August 28, 2009	8:00 a.m. – noon
Thursday, October 22, 2009	3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, November 19, 2009	3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, February 4, 2010	3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 6, 2010	3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Assignments will consist of short readings, preparation of meeting agendas, identification of potential learning resources for the PLT, and oversight of the final group presentation project or other evidence of learning. Successful completion of the course will result in the award of three Falmouth graduate credits, which will be counted towards BA +15 or MA +30 on the salary scale.