

FariaPD

Differentiated Professional Development

St. Mark's Episcopal School

St. Mark's Episcopal School is a private co-educational preschool 2s through 8th-grade school located in Houston, Texas, serving just under 500 students. As a long time Atlas curriculum mapping partner, they also took advantage of professional development to better equip their teachers.



ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL
A Community Engaged

What was the goal?

Cortney Richa-Herbet, the Curriculum and Learning Coordinator for the school, recognized a need to reinvigorate their mapping process and ensure all her colleagues were equally equipped to develop and map curriculum. To ensure consistency and to build buy-in, she enlisted the help of FariaPD to assist in breathing new life into their curriculum mapping initiative.

What was the structure and how did FariaPD help?

In coordination and support with Garhertt Wagers, the Head of School, Cortney and Garhertt brainstormed with the FariaPD team on how best to build capacity and momentum for the entire faculty at St. Mark's. Out of these conversations, Garhertt and Cortney saw a need to differentiate their PD, so together with the PD team, they devised a day of onsite professional development with each division supported by a different facilitator. The different groups had unique challenges that were better addressed in individual sessions designed specifically for that group's needs.

What was the outcome?

The day of onsite professional development provided specific division support and sparked continual curriculum conversations at St. Mark's. Each division walked away with tangible tasks to pursue - a revised template for early childhood, new standards for the middle school, and a larger discussion around meaningful assessment methods. As a result of those conversations, the curriculum team at St. Mark's saw the value of building a style guide for assessments that could support the whole school and articulated their philosophy of assessment in more visible and tangible ways.

Testimony

"From the initial planning to the implementation, our Atlas professional development day was outstanding. A team of highly skilled trainers came to our school to work with our Early Childhood teachers, Elementary School teachers, and Middle School teachers as each division had different needs and questions on their curriculum maps. At the end of the day, the teachers felt like they gained a better understanding of curriculum mapping and were energized to continue their unit work in Atlas."

Garhertt and Courtney



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