

Observing Peers @ CDS

"The most positive benefit of teacher-to-teacher observation is that it makes teaching a public rather than a private act." Stephanie Hirsh (Learning Forward)

Below you will find information about the CDS Grape Chart and PDC Peer Observations and their general expectations.

CDS School-wide Grape Chart



Overview: The CDS Grape Chart is a system where teachers can invite colleagues to come observe something happening in their classroom. There are no formal requirements, but we are hopeful that conversations about practice will emerge from these observations organically.

Goals:

- To establish a culture of collaborative learning.
- To promote collegiality and the exchange of ideas within and beyond departments and divisions.

Chart:

- [QUARTER 2 GRAPE CHART](#)

Process: Have something awesome happening in your class that you'd like to share with others? Invite others to your room by signing up on the [GRAPE CHART](#)!

- On the Grape Chart, select the drop down box in the corresponding period and day that you wish for people to come visit.
- If you plan to visit, put your name in the row just below the name of the individual you plan to see.
- On your way out the door complete the [grape chart tracking form](#).
- No formal conversation is necessary.

** If you need someone to watch your class while you briefly jump into a peers classroom, do not hesitate to reach out to Jason Musselman or any other directors. Emily Morris has also offered to support.

Observer Expectations:

- Unless invited by the teacher to participate in the lesson, a teacher should do their best to not impact the teaching and learning that is happening in the classroom. Your presence already impacts the lesson, we ask that you simply observe.

Sharing Grapes:

- Every time you invite or attend a grape chart observation you earn one entry into the quarterly drawing. Each division (FP/MS/HS) will select two individuals from this drawing who will earn wine (or an non-alcoholic alternative).

[Referenced Resource](#)

PDC Peer Observations

Goal:

- To provide targeted and specific feedback concerning the area of pedagogy focused on in a Professional Learning Community.

Process:

- Prior to the observation
 - Measurable, specific and observable aspects of the lesson should be agreed upon by both parties. Ideally, it relates directly to the PDC area of focus.
 - Guidance of this may be provided by the PDC facilitators or Director of Academics.
 - Both parties should determine the best possible time to observe and follow up. These should be booked in Google Calendar.
 - The follow up should ideally take place within 24 hours after the observation.
- Observation and follow up conversation should take place.
 - It should be noted that this observation is non-evaluative, but highly collaborative. We want to make sure it is a safe place for individuals to take risks. Steer clear of judgements that may hurt the trusting relationship between colleagues.

Observer Expectations:

- Unless invited by the teacher to participate in the lesson, a teacher should do their best to not impact the teaching and learning that is happening in the classroom. Your presence already impacts the lesson, we ask that you simply observe.