

HAIS Learning Walks

Purpose:

The goal of the Learning Walks is to improve practice through observation and reflection, while building collaboration among colleagues from HAIS member schools. Participants will spend a day at a host school, observing student learning, teaching and learning strategies, and learning environments. This experience is also intended to give participants the opportunity to reflect on their own practice.

Schedule:

We recommend that each participating school model the day's schedule off of the one below. HAIS will reimburse the school for the cost of food and beverages, in an amount of \$25 per participant.

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| 1 hour | Welcome, Continental Breakfast, Introduction to Host School and Learning Walk Theme/Focus Area
<i>Host school to welcome visitors and share some background information about their school and chosen theme. Visitors will complete the Observation Sheet listing their personal focus area that they are interested in exploring while observing classrooms.</i> |
| 2 hours | Classroom Visits
<i>Host school will determine how many classrooms are available for visitors. Visits can be a part of a tour or more open ended, allowing participants to visit pre-selected classrooms on their own.</i> |
| 1.5 hours | Lunch Debrief
<i>Debrief in one large group with visitors and host school's classroom teachers. HAIS staff can be onsite to help facilitate discussion and Q&A, if desired.</i> |
| ½ - 1 hour | Optional School Tour
<i>If possible, host school to offer a campus tour.</i> |

Learning Walk Protocol

This protocol provides a means for visitors to a school to have a meaningful experience and interchange with hosting educators about their observations of the school. It is based on the Collaborative Assessment Conference, a protocol for looking at student work that helps people observe carefully in a non-evaluative way.

School Walk

Divide into smaller groups comprised of 2 to 3 cross-school people and walk through the host school for about 2 hours. Make non-evaluative observations, avoiding qualitative judgments about what you see. As you walk, remain silent and take notes using the following questions and the Observation Sheet as a guideline.

- What do you see in regards to the host school theme/focus area?
- What else do you see?
- What do you wonder about?

Sharing Observations and Debrief

Return to the large group for a lunch debrief.

- Start by talking about observations
- Ask clarifying questions to classroom teachers
- Share wows and wonders
- Conclude with everyone acknowledging one person

HAIS Learning Walk

Observation Sheet

Theme/Focus Area	Observations/Evidence	Questions
Visit Theme: <i>Pre-determined by host school</i>		
Host School Focus Area: <i>Pre-determined by host school, if a host school wants visitors to focus on something particular within their chosen theme.</i>		
Personal Focus Area: <i>For visitor, to complete day-of. What do you want to learn about (must relate to the visit's theme/focus area)?</i>		