

All Staff Training: Introduction to Sustainability & Systems Thinking

by Steven White

Tool(s) used:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability Compass • Systems Iceberg • Pyramid Lite (VISIS) Introduction
Purpose of using tool:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synthesizing Thinking • Guiding Thought Process/Learning <p>Overview: The tools were shared with our staff as we learned them. From there, the staff were asked to offer ideas/suggestions as to how they could use them in their classrooms. I also 'merged' the parking lot with the idea/expectation board to give a sounding board to the staff to have their ideas heard and then subsequently monitor the progress of the ideas.</p>
Context of lesson/case study:	All staff training
Participants (# and description):	23 teachers, two administrators
Topic, Theme, or Key Understanding of unit/project:	Introduction to Sustainability and Systems Thinking
Length of unit/project:	3.5 hours
Resources/materials & setting required:	<p>Setting: Large, open space with an area for sitting and working.</p> <p>Materials: writing utensils, paper, post-its, computers (tablets) for collaborative docs, projector, speakers.</p>
<p>Lesson Plan/Description of the Project:</p> <p>Schedule for Day 1 - January 13, 2017</p> <p>11:15- 11:35 Explanation of Different boards</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Schedule</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Parking Lot</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Expectations Board</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Sustainability Toolbox</p> <p>11:35- 11:50 Clock Dates</p> <p>11:50- 12:00 Define Sustainability</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The Person Over There</p> <p>12:00-12:15 Lunch Break (Get your lunch and join us back in the auditorium)</p> <p>12:15- 12:35 Pairs' Definition using Clock Dates</p> <p>12:35- 12:50 Share</p> <p>12:50- 1:30 Stories</p> <p>1:30- 1:50 Sustainability Compass</p>	

1:50- 2:20 Introduction to the Pyramid
2:20-2:30 Reflections and Feedback

Reflection

Plusses:

From the feedback given by the staff, this training was very well received. The staff had fun, learned about sustainability (intro level!!), learned about new tools to use in their lives (personal and professional), and got a chance to practice using some of the new tools.

Challenges:

Time!! There is so much that can be covered and shared and with a limited time, it gets a bit difficult. Next time it would be best to lessen the amount of material to cover so that what is covered can be covered in more depth (and have more time to practice using the tools).

Suggestions for other practitioners and educators:

Just dive in and have fun! These concepts are critical, the importance is staggering, and time is running out to make drastic changes. BUT!! it is great fun to be on the learning process so just do it and enjoy!

Evidence and Resource:



Lesson plan submitted by: Steven White, 2017, while serving as Upper School Principal at Equity American School