

**Standard 8:** Fulfills professional responsibilities established by the school district.

**Criterion e:** Collaborates with students, families, colleagues, and communities to enhance student learning.

**Artifact:** My eighth period class is my largest class of the day. There are 27 freshmen in the class. They are also my loudest class of the day. The anticipation of getting out of school is occupying their minds. At the end of class everyday they shut their books and stop paying attention for the last five minutes of class. If I give them time to work on their homework the majority of the class stops once there is five minutes left in the period. They get up and hover around the door. This is very distracting to the students that are still working on their assignment.

In order to try and correct this behavior I chose to teach the social skill of using their time wisely. In order to teach this at the end of class on Wednesday April 6, 2011 I explained that we will be working on staying on task until the end of the period. I collaborated with students and we decided that students will not be allowed to stand up and hover around the door anymore. Also, students will be required to sit in their seats until the bell rings. In order to stay on task I encouraged students to bring a book to read in case they get done with their assignment early. If they do not bring a book they will be expected to pre-read the next section. If students were out of their seats when the bell rang the entire class would be kept after until everyone was in their seats and I dismissed the class.

The first day this did not work very well because a lot of students forgot their books to read. The next day as students came into class I reminded them to bring some extra work or a book to read. This seemed to help because students went back to their lockers and grabbed some extra homework. The third day I stood at the door again and reminded students to bring extra homework to work on and fewer students had to go back to their lockers because they had

remembered the extra homework. By the fourth day most students had extra work with them when they walked into class. I have only had to hold the students after school on one occasion. This was the first day that I implemented this new policy of staying on task. One student did not remain in his seat until the bell rang and so the entire class waited until he sat down in his seat. The next day his peers put a little bit of pressure on him to stay on task so that when the bell rings everyone could leave on time. I am still working out the details of this but overall 8<sup>th</sup> period is learning how to stay on task.

**Explanation:** In order to collaborate with the students I formulated a plan to change their behavior by teaching them a social skill. The Le Mars Community School mission statement states that Le Mars is “achieving the highest possible education” and “promoting life-long learning”. In order to reach a level of life-long learning students must be able to stay on task through the end of the period; otherwise their energy will never be focused enough to reach their full potential. I collaborated with students to develop the idea that if not everyone is in their seats then the entire class must stay after until everyone is seated.