Exploring Professionalism – Video Script Handout



Exploring Professionalism

2 All Management (See)

Mr. Farrow has been teaching for three years and is familiar with the eighth grade mathematics curriculum. He hasn't been able to get to the professional learning community math team events each year. They always seem to fall on days that he attends swimming competitions for the middle school swim team.



"I sure hope that this time around I can get my students to understand this lesson. The first year I taught it was a disaster, but that was my first year teaching, so that doesn't really count. I remember that it didn't go so well last year either -- maybe because my group of students didn't understand what was expected. I wish I had made the professional learning community math team training last month when the discussion was about lesson study. Oh, well. Maybe the third time's a charm with this lesson."



How could have membership in a professional learning community improve instructional practice?



"OK, class. We are going to continue working on the problems we started yesterday. Take out your books, sit quietly, and work by yourselves. If you have a question, raise your hand and I'll come to you."



Student: "Mr. Farrow, I need help."

Mr. Farrow: "I'll be right there."



Mr. Farrow: "See how easy that was?"

Student: "I guess so."



"They should be able to comprehend this material. It's not that hard. I wish I knew what to do to make this assignment more interesting and engaging for my students so it doesn't feel like a waste of time."

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What professional development strategies could have enhanced content knowledge and pedagogy skills?



"Next, we will learn how to find the area of a trapezoid. This is easy too, just like figuring out the area of the rhombus."



Student: "Mr. Farrow, what's the difference between a trapezoid, a rhombus, and a parallelogram? They all look the same to me."Mr. Farrow: "Don't worry about that now. Just write down the formula. Everyone, write down this formula now. You will need it when you work on more problems tomorrow."



Student: "This is stupid."



"Why can't these kids just write things down when I ask them?! Why do they always have to question me?"



What professionalism strategies could have created a culture of respect and rapport?



"I don't know what I'm doing wrong. This is the third year that I've taught this lesson, and it still feels like I'm not reaching my students. Third time WAS NOT a charm! I am glad that I wasn't being observed by my principal today! What am I going to do?"



How could have a Professional Growth Plan strengthen content knowledge and pedagogy skills?



Teachers often face challenges in isolation. Professional learning communities are created to allow the professional, or teacher to collaborate with colleagues and others to enhance teaching and learning.

How could have membership in a professional learning community improve instructional practice? What professional development strategies could have enhanced content knowledge and pedagogy skills? What professionalism strategies could have created a culture of respect and rapport? How could have a Professional Growth Plan strengthen content knowledge and pedagogy skills?