

Hortonville

WISCONSIN



Every Student Learns
A collaborative approach

MC SUCCESS STORIES

HORTONVILLE

Every Student Learns: A collaborative approach

A Wisconsin school district strives for more meaningful collaboration to make sure every student learns at the highest level.

With a district-wide focus on collaboration, student-centered learning, and the whole child, Hortonville Area School District sought to supercharge its Professional Learning Communities (PLC) and community outreach.

Read about how MasteryConnect is supporting their PLC process to

- › meet the needs of the whole child
- › increase teacher professionalism and student ownership of learning
- › increase overall proficiency scores and student growth year over year



An Interview with

CHRIS HANSEN

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING AT HORTONVILLE



Hortonville

Location . . . East Central, WI
Schools..... 7
Students 3,712
Suburban

Hortonville Area School District, a suburban Wisconsin district of nearly 4,000 students, has a powerful mission statement: **Our community ensures that every student learns at the highest level.**

This mission statement highlights the three fundamental philosophies of the educators in the seven schools of the Hortonville District:

- › collaboration (community)
- › a student-centered focus (every student learns)
- › and the importance of the whole child (highest level)

They've found deep-level Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and focusing on the whole child have made a powerful impact on helping them achieve their mission and adhere to these guiding philosophies. This story explores their holistic approach to the PLC process and how MasteryConnect is helping make it happen.

A PEEK INTO PLCs

Hortonville educators are finding that PLCs are helping them make strides in their approach to teaching and learning.

“The district dedicates professional development time for curriculum collaboration to ensure we have a cycle of ever-improving curriculum for our students,” says Chris Hansen, Director of Learning at Hortonville. “Collaborating and struggling over standards and objectives, student learning, professional philosophy, and instruction benefits us all.”



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- CHRIS HANSEN

Teachers are building key professional competencies as they work together in their professional learning communities.

These key competencies include:

- 1 PURPOSE:** Hortonville teachers and administrators have worked together to create **shared values and norms**, centered around a **focus on student learning**.
- 2 AUTONOMY:** Teachers at Hortonville work together to make **decisions about curriculum, instruction, and student development**. Reflective conversations center around student learning: identifying student levels of understanding, targeting students for intervention and enrichment, and self-evaluating instructional practice.
- 3 MASTERY:** Teachers at Hortonville **continually seek to self-evaluate and adjust instruction** in response to student needs.
- 4 TRUST IN COLLABORATION:** Teachers at Hortonville work together to improve teaching and learning for all by **transparently sharing practice** to encourage reflection.

CONSCIENTIOUS COLLABORATION

Administrators at Hortonville have seen that MasteryConnect helps teachers get the common formative data they need to work together more meaningfully. “MasteryConnect matches our philosophy of teacher collaboration,” explains Hansen.

Hortonville educators use their PLC time to collaboratively answer district-defined guiding questions in the areas of curriculum, standards, student proficiency, and data literacy. The focus on these areas help them get the most impact from their efforts.

COLLABORATION AROUND CURRICULUM

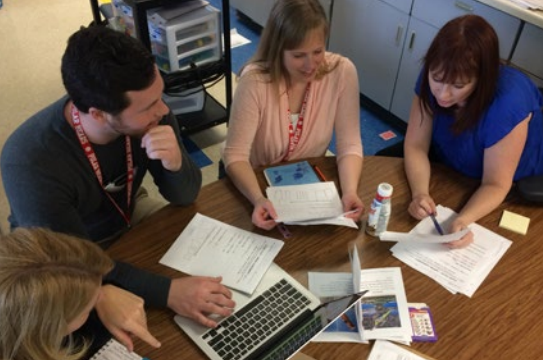
How can we organize our curriculum to give full access for all colleagues to collaborate? How can we chunk standards into units?

Designed to empower teachers to reflect beyond the walls of their own classrooms, these questions help educators as they build curriculum as teams. And the MasteryConnect curriculum mapping tools offer them a visible guide throughout this process.

COLLABORATION AROUND STANDARDS

*What are the essential standards to be learned?
How can we collectively describe the small chunks of learning needed for proficiency in student-friendly language?*

These questions jumpstart team-level conversations about what’s essential for students to know within each and every subject. Because MasteryConnect offers all standards for all states (over one million in total), every teacher team, regardless of subject, can collaborate around their specific standards.

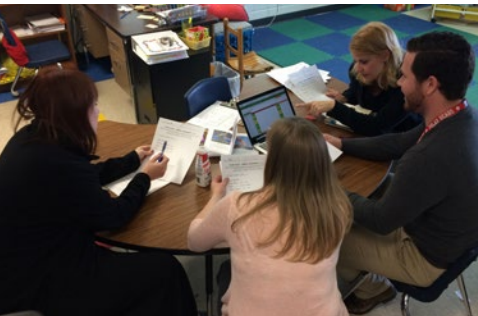


COLLABORATION AROUND PROFICIENCY

What does proficient student work look like?

What prior knowledge, skills and/or vocabulary is/are needed for a student to master the standard?

Hortonville PLC teams use questions like these to establish collective prerequisite skills and understanding of proficiency as they create consistency and fairness for their students. Teachers use MasteryConnect Resource Pins and Notes to document these important resources, so they are within easy reach of each member of the collaborative team.



COLLABORATION AROUND DATA LITERACY

What strategies were used by teammates whose students performed well?

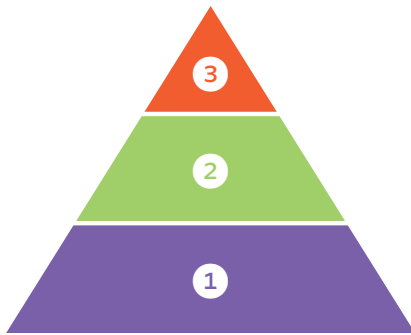
What is an area where our team's students struggled?

Hortonville teacher teams work collaboratively to create or identify common assessments and analyze data from those assessments. The MasteryConnect community provides thousands of resources to draw from when creating assessments, and its teacher reports—especially the Teacher Comparison Report—act as a springboard for meaningful discussions around student learning.



FOCUSING ON THE WHOLE CHILD

Educators at Hortonville Area School District understand that in order for students to be able to learn at the highest level, their social and emotional needs must be met in addition to their academic needs. So they leverage school-wide and community-wide approaches to meeting the needs of the whole child, including PBIS and E3 Program.



3

TIER THREE:
Diagnosis & Treatment

On-site counseling
Group therapy
Family counseling
Case management
Parent advocate

2

TIER TWO:
Early Intervention and Identification

Teen support group
Consultation to teachers & staff
Classroom shadowing
Parent sharing groups
Social/educational groups
On-site universal screening
Case management
Parent advocate

1

TIER ONE:
Universal Prevention for Students, Parents, Staff, Community Education and Engagement

QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) training
Student Assistance Program training
Youth Mental Health First Aid
Ending the Silence Awareness campaigns/events
Case management
Parent advocate

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

Hortonville teacher teams track social, emotional, and behavioral skills, as well as academic skills of students. To support PBIS, teachers use custom standards entered into MasteryConnect and a district-created rubric to track student progress in the domains of respect, responsibility, caring, and honesty.

The eleven-indicator rubric provides the data teachers need to identify areas where students are strong and areas where they may need additional support. The clear visual representation of levels of mastery for each indicator also engages and supports students in their own efforts to improve in these domains.

Connecting with the Community

Hortonville collaborates with the broader community to support the whole child. The district’s innovative E3 (engage, educate, empower) program is a comprehensive school-based mental health program, for which Hortonville partners with local service providers to promote mental health and well-being for all students.

The program follows a three-tier format:

TIER ONE: Service providers, educators, parents, and students engage in activities designed to promote mental health awareness and prevention.

TIER TWO: Educators and service providers collaborate to provide opportunities for early intervention and identification for all students.

TIER THREE: Hortonville offers on-site access to diagnostic and treatment services administered by mental health providers for students whose parents wish to participate in the program.

Hortonville E3 Program

These school-wide and community-wide supports for students align with the Hortonville mission to ensure that every student learns at the highest level. “In addition to meeting students’ academic needs, we focus on their behavioral and social needs,” explains Hansen. “MasteryConnect helps support our teachers as they track student behaviors through our PBIS process so we can provide early intervention to students who need it.”

HOW IT’S WORKING

The underlying premise of deep-level PLCs and community outreach at Hortonville is to support meaningful collaboration and a student-centered focus that meets the needs of the whole child.

Since implementing MasteryConnect, Hortonville is seeing positive results from its efforts. Hortonville school principals are one hundred percent behind the PLC process and recognize the ability to empower their teachers to bring more depth to this process.



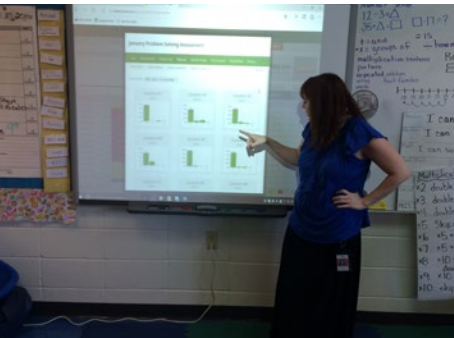
Teachers see a direct correlation between meaningful collaboration of PLCs and MasteryConnect.

- CHRIS HANSEN

For teachers, the experience has created a greater sense of purpose and greater autonomy, mastery, and trust in collaboration as they implement the PLC process and focus their conversations around formative student data gathered through MasteryConnect.

They are also seeing positive results from Hortonville students. They’re taking greater ownership of their learning as they benefit from increased teacher professionalism and from the

attention given to the whole child. And overall proficiency scores and student growth are increasing each year.



According to Hansen, the PLC and whole-child focus is helping improve student learning and teacher experience. He credits MasteryConnect for playing a vital role. “Teachers see a direct correlation between meaningful collaboration of PLCs and MasteryConnect,” he explains. “This understanding empowers them to experience success both with the PLC process and with MasteryConnect as it supports this process. This is the kind of success that moves teachers and moves students. It benefits us all.”



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- CHRIS HANSEN

GET MORE INFO

Learn more about how MasteryConnect can help you better manage student data in order to fuel collaboration and improve student outcomes.



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MASTERY CONNECT

MasteryConnect provides formative assessment and competency-based learning solutions to educators around the world. MasteryConnect combines professional development with its web and mobile platforms, including Socrative, to help teachers identify student levels of understanding in real time, target students for intervention, and use assessment data to inform instruction. We now serve over **3 million teachers** and **21 million students** in more than **85% of U.S. districts** and **170 countries**.

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