

Third Grade Team Freedom Elementary
Alpine School District Board of Education Presentation
Tuesday, May 16, 2017

The third grade team at Freedom Elementary can be known as the "Fab Five" when it comes to student learning and engagement. This team knows that curriculum is important, parental involvement is vital, and student learning is number one. Third grade had three teachers join Mrs. Dibb (CTL) and Mr. Ciochi. Mrs. Jorgensen and Mrs. Laycock previously taught second grade at Freedom and Mrs. Pettit was a fourth grade teacher at Traverse Elementary. This team has confidence! They believe in themselves as educators. Nothing is more important than to watch a team with outstanding teachers and the belief they have for student learning and what they do with this vision.

Each one of these teachers recognized quickly that they were the most important players in ensuring high levels of learning for all students. At the beginning of this year, Mrs. Reed, Freedom's Instructional Coach, approached this team about watching a third grade team at Dry Creek Elementary. Dry Creek's team was getting great results and the third grade team at Freedom wanted to see what they were doing. After spending one day watching them teach, manage target time, and collaborate, the third grade team at Freedom came right back and implemented this process of teaching on their own. With strong, consistent collaboration, they look at data by the student by the standard, and they target students during collaboration for 30 minutes a day 4 days a week during our "Falcon Time."

Freedom's third grade team holds each other accountable. If someone on the team is not pulling their weight or focused on student learning, they have those hard conversation as a team so they are working for student learning for ALL.

The dibels goal for the Alpine District for third grade benchmark is 90 percent of third grade students will pass DIBELS. This year 86 percent of the third grade students at Freedom reached they goal. Last year our third grade had only 76 percent of the kids pass the benchmark at the end of the school year. At the end of the school year last year only 49 percent of third grade students were proficient on the end of year SAGE language arts. So far this year on SAGE testing third grade has tested 75 percent of the students and 65 percent of them are proficient.

Student learning just does not happen automatically. Student learning is happening this year in third grade because the third grade team has a tight collaboration, their main focus is student learning, they target student by the standard, and they have worked with an incredible instructional coach that has helped facilitate their adult learning that has clearly transferred into student learning.