

October 23, 2015 BCTELA presentation:
Inspiring Minds: the power of SmartLearning lesson sequences

Presentation description

Participants will experience how SmartLearning lessons increase each learner's powers to learn and retain complex skills, competencies, and understandings. Using an inquiry approach, learners are immersed in text, and use layers of thinking tools and partner interactions to develop deep understandings. Participants will leave with print material to guide their personal applications.

Applicable grade level/s: 3-12

Presentation team: Tammy Renyard, Ingrid Fawcett & Heather Brown

Biographical Information:

Tammy Renyard: Tammy has been a teaching vice-principal in SD61, Greater Victoria. In the fall of 2015 she will become a secondary principal in that district. She is passionate about side-by-side work with teachers. Together they implement lessons designed to deeply engage learners in the learning process -- lessons that guide learners to know what to do on purpose to develop powerful thinking and understanding. Tammy has led workshops and classroom-based learning rounds for middle and secondary educators in B.C., Alberta, the Yukon, and in the Northern Territories.

Ingrid Fawcett: Ingrid has recently been a vice principal in a SD61, Greater Victoria middle school. In the fall of 2015 she will assume the role of vice-principal of a secondary school. She has been a district learning coach, a classroom teacher K-12 and a sessional instructor at the University of Victoria. Her work and leadership with SmartLearning spans over twenty years.

Heather Brown: Heather recently joined SD61, Greater Victoria, as a vice-principal from a senior science teaching position in SD6, Rocky Mountain. She has a focus on building conceptual understanding and skills using content as a vehicle and firmly believes that literacy skills are the responsibility of all educators.

Objectives:

- to show how through an inquiry approach to learning, SmartLearning lesson sequences increase learners' capacities to learn and retain complex skills, competencies and understandings – personal powers that cultivate passion in learning
- to show how lesson sequences can be flexibly adapted and used with different texts (personal stories, images, print, media, experiences...), at a range of grade levels
- to show how lesson sequences can lead learners to deep reflective understandings about learning
- to show how collegial interactions lead to rich conversations about classroom practice, and to innovative ways of learning in the classroom

Method of presentation: interactive and reflective

- Participants will experience and reflect on SmartLearning lesson sequence/s presented by the leaders. Reflection will include an analysis of how the lesson sequences intentionally develop a wealth of curricular competencies, deep conceptual understandings, and learning about learning itself. Participants will leave with print material to guide their personal applications.