

Group Pedagogy: Home Groups

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Social Constructive Learning Theory

- ▶ Emphasizing the social character of the learning process
- ▶ Learning takes place particularly when in interaction with one another



Student-Centered Learning

- ▶ In the more traditional "teacher-centered learning" environment, the teacher is center of the learning experience and takes the "active" role of teaching, while the students assume a more "passive" or receptive role.
- ▶ In the student-centered classroom, students take a more "active" role in the education experience



Group pedagogy: Permanent Home Groups

- Groups of four student (grades 3-9)
- Classroom teacher forms the groups
- Groups are heterogenic
- Home Groups work together when the class attends lesson as a whole group
- New groups are formed every 9 weeks
- Tables are set in groups of four in every classroom



What we are trying to achieve here?

- ▶ Improve students co-working skills through systemic and systematic method
- ▶ Help the students to get to know each other better, which is often the key for better atmosphere in the class
- ▶ Endorse students activity and participation through working in permanent small groups
- ▶ Increase students psychological feeling of safety and collective security

In addition to this..

- ▶ Teachers are more likely to use co-operative teaching methods as the students are already in groups
- ▶ Students learn important transversal competences: asking advice, offering help, listening others, negotiating skills, expressing an opinion, modelling
- ▶ And all of that at the same time they study the contents of different school subjects



Permanent Home Groups vs. Temporary Small Groups

- ▶ Forming of temporary small groups might cause feelings of insecurity amongst students
- ▶ Temporarily formed small groups are often ineffective
- ▶ Teachers and students might get negative experiences from working in small groups if it is poorly implemented



How we did this in practice?

- ▶ Presenting the idea for the school management group
 - ▶ Presenting the idea in a teacher's meeting -> discussions in small groups
 - ▶ Presenting the idea to the student's board
 - ▶ Presenting the idea for all the students (video)
 - ▶ Presenting the idea to the school board
- > Start working in Home Groups!



How to get the teachers to do this?

- ▶ Teachers don't need to change anything - only have the students work in home groups!
- ▶ Usually the teachers end up using more co-operative teaching methods and benefit the small group setting

Conclusion

- ▶ Home Groups are a simple and concrete way of improving student's transversal skills
- ▶ Teacher's don't need to change anything in their work - just have the students sit and work in these predefined home groups
- ▶ If implemented throughout the whole school, many positive consequences could occur





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