



Day 42

Pick Pineapple

Many educators feel that growing their UDL model means learning more, but sometimes, teaching others in the community (or even those far from your community) can be even more helpful than reading another book or attending another seminar.

One way to teach others is to open your doors and invite visitors to tour your school or classroom. Make the experience even richer by offering lunch meetings with willing teachers, and showing video clips that illustrate practices popular at your school (e.g., push-in supports from therapists, whole-class tutoring).

If you want to formalize this process, create a pineapple chart in your school (Barnes & Gonzalez, 2015). A pineapple chart is a visual that is posted in a faculty lounge and filled with “invitations” to classrooms. When an educator in the building is doing something new or potentially interesting during a given week (e.g., introducing reciprocal teaching, trying exhibitions, using Timetoast), he or she lists it on the chart to let others know when it will happen. Usually the chart is broken into periods or time slots so that every educator can easily see what they can observe second period on Tuesday, for instance.

The pineapple chart is named for a fruit that symbolizes hospitality and the name of the tool really does indicate its purpose. Visitors are welcome and they do not need to do anything more than relax and observe. These pop-ins are not about evaluating or even providing feedback to a colleague. Teachers come and stay for just a few minutes or an entire lesson. It is as casual as it is potentially powerful.