

FariaPD

Blending Virtual & Onsite Professional Development

St. Richard's Episcopal School

St. Richards's Episcopal School is a private pre-kindergarten through eighth-grade school located in Indianapolis, Indiana. St. Richard's partnership with Faria Education Group started with Atlas, and they have recently participated in a series of professional development workshops.



What was the goal?

Cherie Bowen, Head of Early Childhood and Lower Divisions, in her first year at St. Richard's provided fresh eyes on an underutilized tool - Atlas. In collaboration with John Brady, Head of Middle Division, the two leaders envisioned using Atlas for more than an electronic bookshelf. They wanted a living breathing curriculum planning tool. Historically Atlas was updated before accreditation, but they saw an opportunity for the tool to be both a place for ongoing development and documenting of their entire written curriculum. Cherie and John worked with Faria's PD team to design a sustainable curriculum mapping initiative.

What was the structure and how did FariaPD help?

Cherie and John knew they would need an onsite PD day to align the faculty and build momentum behind their vision but wanted to avoid the "one and done" idea of professional development. As part of that strategy, they added three additional online sessions prior to the onsite day. First, they assembled a curriculum committee and developed a plan to articulate why mapping a written curriculum was important. Second, they discussed their long term curriculum goals and redesigned their unit template to better align their existing curriculum work and future initiatives. Lastly, they tackled questions on how to achieve rigorous student outcomes without using the traditional model of state standards. With that foundation in place, the PD team facilitated a day-long curriculum writing workshop with the whole staff. Based on conversations from that day and to keep the momentum moving forward, the onsite day was followed up with another PD conversation. This session explored ways to articulate expectations to teachers and concrete examples of high-level curriculum as teachers continued to develop, revise, and review their curriculum in Atlas.

What was the outcome?

The entire process of laying the groundwork for a successful day of PD has led to a greater understanding of the "why" behind curriculum mapping and the importance of a living curriculum. It also sparked conversations around how St. Richard's is embedding their outcomes in their curriculum, along with their unique educational outlook.

Testimony

"St Richard's Episcopal School had a productive experience revisioning our curriculum map work with Atlas in both virtual and in-person professional development for both administrators and teachers as we designed and began the process of updating our existing curriculum map. The staff at Atlas personalized the experience for us, knowing our templates and objectives and also provided guidance and resources from other schools which were helpful in designing the stages of our work. Our teachers found the onsite day and the virtual planning committee work helpful in identifying focus to our process."

Cherie and John



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