

Collaborative Teaching

Larkspur-Corte Madera School District
Neil Cummins & The Cove School

Michelle Walker & Patty Elliot

Collaborative Teaching is a process that includes two teachers working together with a group of students in a variety of flexible ways to meet the needs of all learners. There are many ways collaborative teaching can look. The most basic definition is two teachers sharing students and learning spaces in order to provide targeted, small group instruction and development of key skills (communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity). Teachers plan lessons and units together and collaborate in a variety of ways throughout the day. Teachers have co-ownership over the progress of all of the students and in creating a student-directed classroom. Collaborative Teaching occurs at The Cove School and Neil Cummins School in learning suites adjoined by flexible and transparent walls and small group learning spaces.



The benefits of collaborative teaching are evidenced through a variety of measures. A study group conducted Action Research in 2013-14 and completed a short video of findings and results that can be found [here](#).

Collaborative teaching benefits student learning in many ways by allowing more differentiated, personalized approaches that range from individual, small and large group strategies. Teachers use local benchmark assessments, reading assessments, rubrics and other student data (discipline, attendance, parent participation) to demonstrate that students in Collaborative teaching classrooms fare as well or better than classmates in traditional teaching environments. That said, specialist teachers have recognized students in classrooms that

are student-directed as collaborative, self-starters, reflective and inquisitive. Collaborative classrooms are one path to achieving more student-directed classrooms. Collaborative Teaching promotes open accountable communication between staff, administration and parents. The culture of learning and overall positive school climate is promoted when teachers have partners; students have access to like and diverse peers promoting dynamic groups, equity and friendships of respect. The benefits for staff, students and parents are clear when collaborative partnerships are well executed and commitment bottom-up and top-down supports the implementation of this practice.



Teachers benefit from this type of teaching and seamlessly share ideas, practices, and mentor and learn from one another as partners. Teaching becomes a truly collaborative practice instead of an isolated experience. Teachers collaborate with their grade levels as they did before in grade level meetings and planning days. Collaborative teams are not separated from their grade level. These teachers work with their grade level peers and teach the same standards.