

NAIKU CASE STUDY



CASE STUDY: BROKEN ARROW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, SHAWNEE, KS

JOURNEY TO BEING A TRUE PLC

Broken Arrow Elementary School serves K-6 students in Shawnee, KS. The school of 440 students rolled out a 1:1 iPad program for all students in 2014-2015. To complement the iPad program and to foster an effective PLC practice, Principal Mike Brewer wanted an assessment platform that would allow his teachers to efficiently and frequently develop and administer common formative assessments (CFAs) to gather meaningful data for the PLC meetings.

Broken Arrow Chooses Naiku

For 2015-2016, after reviewing several online assessment platforms, Principal Brewer chose Naiku for his school. "My number one objective is to create a PLC culture at the school," said Brewer. "We not only want to talk about student achievement and think about what to do next, we want to make sound instructional decisions based on data. That's why Naiku fits really well with what we're trying to achieve with our PLC," added Brewer.

Being in his second year as Principal of Broken Arrow, Brewer doesn't want to introduce too much at once to his teachers. "We're going to roll this out systematically. We will do one bit at a time," stressed Brewer. Although Naiku is open and available to all teachers, the focus this year will be on Grades 3-6. "My goal this year is to increase staff understanding of CFA and increase the frequency of its use so that we can drive student growth and inform instruction," said Brewer.

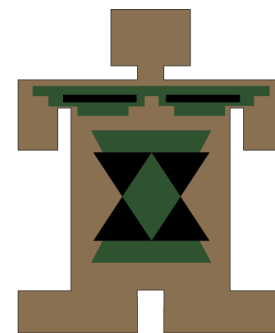
Hallmarks of a Successful PLC

Teacher teams who work collaboratively in a PLC focus on the following four critical questions:

1. What do we expect our students to learn?
2. How will we know they are learning it?
3. How will we respond when they don't learn it?
4. How will we respond when they already know it?

The PLCs at Broken Arrow Elementary School take these 4 questions to heart. The teacher teams currently work to identify the priority standards that students must learn. "Naiku is a powerful tool for answering the last three questions," added Brewer. "We've identified some priority standards already. We've created and delivered some CFAs. Now, our teachers quickly know what the students have learned and how to respond."

Principal Brewer likes that Naiku is aligned with the research of Dr. Hattie in *Visible Learning*. "I tell my students to be superheroes in their own story. The fact that Naiku allows students to engage in self-assessment and predict their scores, rate their confidence, and reflect on their performance encourages them to take ownership and write their stories."



Broken Arrow Elementary School Fast Facts

Part of Shawnee Mission School District

Located in Shawnee, KS

440 students

1:1 iPad Program

Home of the Trailblazers



Primary Uses of Naiku

83 Assessments Created

Unit assessments to inform instruction

Benchmark assessments to identify student strengths and weaknesses

Student Prediction

Student Confidence Ratings

Student Reflection

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Teacher Reception

Teachers have embraced Naiku as expected by Brewer. They have started and continue to create short 5-question pretests to quickly gauge where students are before teaching a unit. They have also created and delivered in-depth benchmark assessments to identify student strengths and weaknesses. The number of tests taken in the first semester is shown below. Mean actual scores continue to increase each month while the mean predicted scores remain relatively steady. Most important, the percentage of passing scores continues to increase.

Matthew Kennedy, the school's Instructional Coach, is excited about how Naiku is impacting teachers and the PLCs. "I feel like we are just now starting to tap into the potential that Naiku holds for teachers and for PLCs. I love that the conversation has shifted to using them as a formative assessment tool. This will lead to even better conversations down the road."

Teacher Kristin Fulps has created and delivered many vocabulary and reading comprehension assessments for her sixth grade students. "Using Naiku has been great.

It's so easy to create and deliver the assessments. And I get the results back immediately," shared Fulps. "My students like using technology. So they love taking their tests on Naiku. They also love the immediate feedback that they receive and reflecting on their performance."

When students take Fulp's exams, she first requires them to use the "tell me more" feature to justify their answers. She then asks them to rate their confidence in each answer. Last, students are asked to reconcile the prediction and confidence with how they actually did through reflection.

Below is a sample student reflection on an item answered incorrectly. The student realizes on reflection that she made a simple mistake.

We have inherited important features of mesopotainian counting systems. The division of an hour into 60 minutes and the division of one minute into 60 seconds. (Page 109), I didn't catch the "except" at the end of the question. Simple Mistake

Principal Brewer is pleased to see how his teachers and students have embraced Naiku. "We are taking baby steps. But we are moving in the right direction. We are on our journey to becoming a true PLC," said Brewer.

	Sep '15	Oct '15	Nov '15	Dec '15
Tests Taken	276	430	325	207
Mean Actual Score	57%	66%	75%	79%
Mean Predicted Score	75%	69%	71%	70%
Pct Passing (Score > 70%)	45%	55%	65%	74%

TRANSFORMATIVE

Naiku Educator Spotlight

Principal Mike Brewer of Broken Arrow Elementary School has been an educator for the past 28 years, having served as middle school teacher, principal, assistant superintendent, and superintendent. "As a principal, I set high expectations for my staff and my students. My staff and I work hard to make sure our students meet their growth targets and are reading above grade level by third grade," said Brewer. To help meet those targets, Brewer is developing a collaborative PLC culture at his school. Teachers are developing common formative assessments to help inform their instruction. With the support of Naiku, his teachers now have the necessary tools and results to make adjustments to their instruction.



Mike Brewer
Principal
Broken Arrow Elementary School