

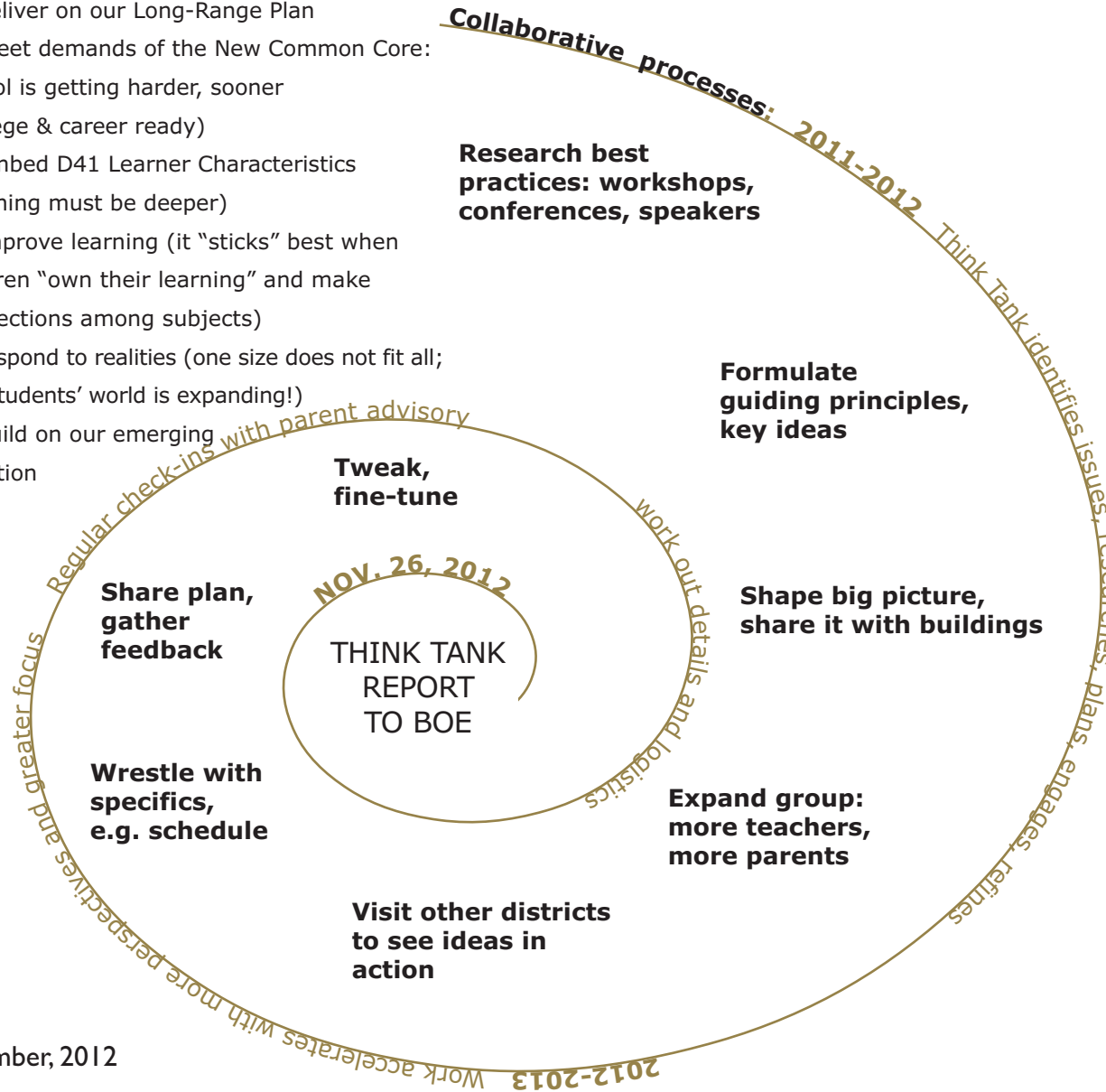


District 41 Think Tank

Current perspectives as of Nov. 15, 2012

Good reasons to change:

- To deliver on our Long-Range Plan
- To meet demands of the New Common Core: school is getting harder, sooner (college & career ready)
- To embed D41 Learner Characteristics (learning must be deeper)
- To improve learning (it "sticks" best when children "own their learning" and make connections among subjects)
- To respond to realities (one size does not fit all; our students' world is expanding!)
- To build on our emerging direction



Research best practices: workshops, conferences, speakers

Formulate guiding principles, key ideas

Shape big picture, share it with buildings

Expand group: more teachers, more parents

Visit other districts to see ideas in action

Share plan, gather feedback

Wrestle with specifics, e.g. schedule

Tweak, fine-tune

NOV. 26, 2012

THINK TANK REPORT TO BOE

Think Tank Guiding Principles

1. Give every child what they need when they need it (academic, social, emotional)
2. Give every child a rigorous, relevant experience that is built on strong relationships

Practical concepts for 2013-2014:

K-1: *no changes*

Grades 2 through 5:

- Multi-age: teachers/students grouped in 2/3 or 4/5 in two main blocks of literacy/social studies and STEAM (with leveled math); homeroom concept incorporated
- Teachers specialize in literacy/social studies or in STEAM for greater instructional effectiveness
- Multi-age & teacher specialization offers greater ability to meet kids where they are and move forward; more opportunities for kids to soar
- STEAM labs and math/literacy "intervention labs" created
- Teachers have common PLC time

A note about multi-age

Students may be instructed above their grade level. No child will receive core instruction below grade level; intervention lab time will help struggling students succeed at grade level.