Let’s Learn Together: Building Learning Communities  
Grain Valley R-V School District  
March - 2020
“In order to establish schools in which inter-dependence and collaboration are the new norm, we must create the structures and cultures that embed collaboration in the routine practice of our schools, ensure that the collaborative efforts focus on the right work, and support educators as they build their capacity to work together rather than alone.”

(DuFour, 2004).
What is a learning lab?

- Job embedded professional learning
- Collaborative environment
- Authentic classroom experiences
- Live action research
- Ongoing
- Applicable
Our Story
What’s Different?

**Demo**
- Exemplar classroom
- Specific training
- Works with coach

**Lab**
- Collaborative
- Choice
- Works with coach
Does this type of PD exist in your district?

What does it look like?
Perspective of Former Lab Teacher
Perspective of Former Lab Teacher

This lab helped put into perspective what was important to me everyday as an educator:

- Produced a personal sense agency
- Stay student centered
- Be reflective and responsive
- Become a lifelong learner
- Take risk - what’s the best that can happen?
A peek inside a 5th grade lab classroom
Action Research from a Lab Teacher

Melanie McCord, 5th Grade Teacher
Lab Reflections
Small Groups in Reader's Workshop

Host Teacher: Summer Blair
Come join me in my first grade classroom and we will explore:
* different kinds of small groups
* the structure of small groups
* how to provide effective instruction within small groups
* how to group students
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:45 - 9:00</td>
<td>Introductions - overview of day - What is a lab classroom? Learning target of the day</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 - 11:00</td>
<td>Professional Development around Lab Focus</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 - 11:30</td>
<td>Professional Reading on an Education Issue (ex. Diversity in Children’s Books)</td>
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<td>11:30 - 12:45</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
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<td>12:45 - 1:20</td>
<td>Pre-Brief for lab observation. Planning time for participants if trying out lab focus with kids in the lab classroom.</td>
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<td>1:20 - 2:20</td>
<td>Lab Classroom</td>
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<td>2:20 - 3:15</td>
<td>Reflection, planning for next steps</td>
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Administrator's POV
Looking Back

- 4 years
- 9 lab teachers
- 101 participants
Looking Forward

- Technology Lab Classroom
- Math Lab Classroom
Brainstorm for your district...

How could your district implement this type of PD?
Connections Are the Foundation to Learning