

What is Lesson Study?

In Japan, teachers improve their teaching through "lesson study," a process in which teachers jointly plan, observe, analyze, and refine actual classroom lessons called "research lessons". Lesson study is widely credited for the steady improvement of Japanese elementary mathematics and science instruction. Since 1999, lesson study has rapidly emerged in many sites across the United States.

<http://www.lessonresearch.net/index.html>

If you'd like the presentation emailed to you, there will be instructions at the end of the presentation.

Exploring the Benefits of Lesson Study

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Lesson study (授業研究)

- Lesson study is how Japanese teachers improve their teaching.



Benefits for Teachers

- Becoming lifelong learners
- Creating engaging lessons and units
- Gaining insights from other teachers/schools
- Becoming more reflective math teachers with immediate feedback on lessons
- Starting to think about school as a whole instead of own class
- Seeing self as a professional that can institute change in the classroom and the larger community
- Learning that Lesson Study is a tool to introduce new ideas to learn students' strengths

Typical Process of the Lesson Study

- Defining the theme/goal
- Planning the lesson
- Research lesson
- Post-Lesson Discussion
- Report writing

- REPEAT
- REPEAT
- REPEAT



Choosing a Topic

- With what concepts are students having the most trouble?
- What topic could most greatly affect their long term achievement?



Choose a Topic with Your Group

5 Minutes

Be prepared to share both your topic and your rationale.

Posing the Task

- Advances and exposes the students' thinking
- Provides appropriate rigor
- Allows for multiple methods



Propose a task for your topic

15 Minutes

Be prepared to share your problem.

Anticipated Students' Responses

- Consider all possible ways the students may approach the task
- Both correct and incorrect solutions should be considered

Anticipate Students' Responses

10 Minutes

Teacher's Support

Looking at the Anticipated Students' Responses, how will the teacher react/question/support the student?

Teacher's Support

10 Minutes

Group Presentations

2 Minutes per group

Lesson Planning

- Kyozaikenkyu - Research of Materials
- Support from Teacher
- Necessary Materials
- Neriage - Summing Up
- Evaluation
- Board Plan

Why observe live lessons?

- Understand student thinking and learning process during a lesson
- Collect data to backup these points
- Determine how the plan of the lesson was received by the students
- Engage in a rich discussion due to the many observers experiencing the same lesson
- Experience multiple vantage points of the same lesson to create a common vocabulary

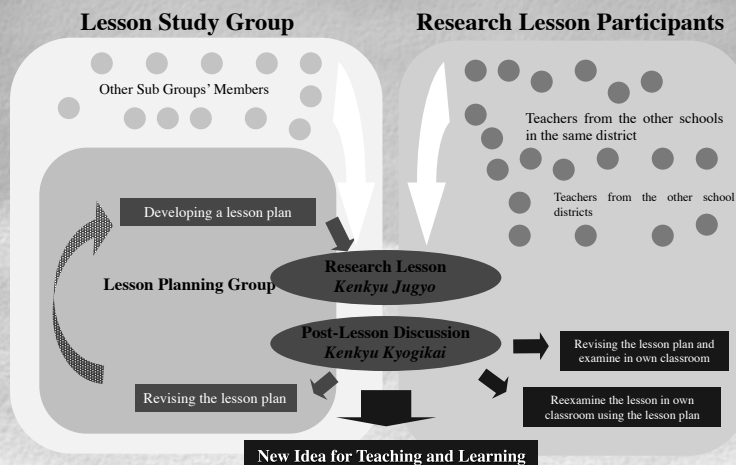
Post-lesson Discussion

- Panel discussion
- Lesson planning team speaks first, then any other observers
- Knowledgeable others
- Lesson is revised based upon observations
- The cycle begins again

Benefits for Students

- Student-centered classroom
- Engaging lessons and units
- Learn to explain their thought process in writing and verbally
- View the value of life-long learning through example

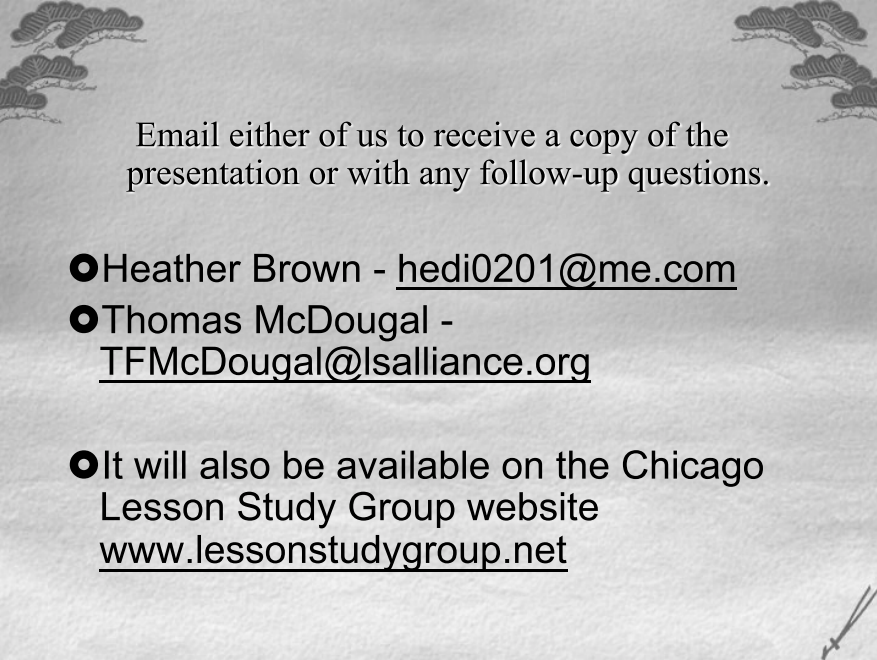
The Lesson Study Cycle



Courtesy of
Akihiko Takahashi

Personal Experiences with Lesson Study

- Adlai E. Stevenson High School
- Chicago Lesson Study group
- Voices in your head
- Power of observation
- Take-aways



Email either of us to receive a copy of the presentation or with any follow-up questions.

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● It will also be available on the Chicago Lesson Study Group website
www.lessonstudygroup.net