COOPERATIVE LEARNING IN THE CLASSROOM

Group Members: Megan Filiault
Paul Shuirman
Karen Schuster

Peer Reviews: Jim and Kathy

“Merely because students work in small groups does not mean that they are cooperating to ensure their own learning and the learning of all others in their group” (Johnson, Johnson and Holubec, 1993).

What is cooperative learning:
Cooperative Learning is a non-traditional learning technique found to greatly increase student achievement. One example is group work in which each student is assigned a role and the group is presented with a task to complete. Students work cooperatively within their group to complete the task while remaining in their assigned roles.

Potential Team Roles for Cooperative Learning Activities:
1. **Captain**: facilitator that keeps everyone on task
2. **Recorder**: takes notes and prepares a final report
3. **Material Person**: gets, collects and returns materials
4. **Spokesperson**: presents the findings for the group and asks questions of the teacher for the group

***It is critical that each member of the group contributes and actively participates to ensure learning***

Pitfalls of cooperative learning without roles:
- One student dominating the task
- Students non-participation
- Students off task/not learning

Advantages of Cooperative Learning with roles for students:
- Helps all students be more successful
- Increases retention level and academic success
- Addresses all types of learning styles
- Minimizes uncertainty and workload
- Reduces lack of participation
- Role reversal of talents…kids try and practice new skills and roles
- Breaks up peer groups and encourages new interaction
Advantages for Teachers and Counselors:
- Allows the teacher to see the authentic person in each student
- Student concerns and issues are more readily exposed
- Requires the students to interact with students outside their peer group

References