Musts for an OKA+ Principal

THE OKA+ PRINCIPAL MUST:

Be the Instructional Leader who-

1. Trusts the creative process to help students succeed.

   Examples:
   
   - Provide opportunities for both individual and group creative problem solving. Higher order thinking skills impact testing skills.
   - Allow students to have input and ownership in creating permanent displays of important concepts in the school entry, the cafeteria, or other common access areas.

2. Uses the A+ Essentials™ to frame the work of a school.

   Examples:
   
   - Organize committees by Essentials
   - Organize handbooks by Essentials
   - Share successes identifying the Essential/s impacted
   - Frame challenges identifying the Essential/s impacted
   - Do a book or article study focusing on an Essential per week
   - Share the A+ Essentials™ with parents and community, then use them to organize communications

3. Organizes and uses your infrastructure and resources to support OKA+ practices through the A+ Essentials™.

   Examples:
   
   - Develop a schedule providing collaboration time, and offer support for how to use it
   - Include Experiential Learning activities in staff meetings
   - Include arts experiences in staff meetings
• Conduct “What if...” sessions
• Use the OKA+ Implementation Guide and Reflection Rubric to identify and align professional development needs.

4. Facilitates and participates in the staff’s professional growth.

Examples:

• Take a field trip to another OKA+ school in a different district
• Lead a book study
• Build A+ on Wheels tubs of your own and/or an A+ resource closet
• Lead or procure a PD session on effective, attractive and instructive displays of student work

Help teachers to -

5. Decrease the dittos. Any great worksheet can be re-created into a greater activity.

6. Trade store-bought materials for original student work.

Examples:

• Make classroom expectations posters
• Word walls
• Learning posters and maps
• Class Agreements poster signed by students

7. Display what is important. Essential questions, basic knowledge, key concepts, facts, ideas

8. Post learning objectives with displayed student work. This benefits the entire learning community.

9. Enable students to make choices in their work. This skill requires practice and increases student engagement and ownership.