

Dave Nagel President & Founder of NZJ Learning (LLC)

Dave Nagel is an international educational consultant and researcher. He is the founder & owner of NZJ Learning (LLC); a K-12 professional development company that believes in the power of impacting student learning—through ensuring all teachers & school leaders receive the highest of level of customized professional development possible. Dave named his company after his three boys: Nicholas, Zachary, and Jacob.

Dave educational career started as a middle school science and high school biology teacher. His administrative experiences involved middle school assistant principal, high school associate principal, and director of extended day and credit-recovery programs in a large urban-fringe district in Indianapolis (MSD of Wayne Township). There, Dave was instrumental in implementing power (priority standards) & high quality performance assessments. He was a tremendous student advocate & was honored numerous times as a 'Senior Choice' winner. This award was given to a select group of educators in the district who graduating seniors designated as people who dramatically affected their lives in a positive way.

His efforts in augmenting and implementing a multi-faceted credit recovery model transformed Ben Davis High School (enrollment 3,400 grades 10-12) from a middle of the road high school in terms of diplomas awarded, into a graduation factory. By focusing on differentiated goals for students based on specific proficiency

measures for all students, Ben Davis was able to move their graduation rate 14% in just over four years.

Dave has been a national and international presenter and consultant to schools for over ten years working with schools pre-K-12 for since 2003. He previously worked for The Leadership and Learning Center until 2014. He has worked with pre-K through 12th grade audiences of all sizes with audiences as small as 3-4 and keynoted for as many as five-hundred.

Dave is also an author consultant with Corwin Professional Learning and is a certified Visible Learning+ presenter. He is the owner of NZJ-Learning (LLC),. Using his experience and expertise, he has presented and helped schools, from pre-K through grade 12, implement effective practices leading to gains in student achievement. His main areas of focus have revolved around assessment, grading & feedback, leadership & implementation, and effective collaboration. He has worked specifically with schools in implementing the following topics: Prioritizing Standards, Common Formative Assessments, building Authentic Performance Tasks, effective use of Scoring Guides, *Impact Professional Learning Teams* (IPLCs™) Rigorous Curriculum Design™, and *Grading For Impact*™.

Dave's has done extensive work with teachers and leaders across the country assisting schools and entire districts through a proven process to identify essential **Common Core State Standards** and their relationship with state and local assessment results.

In addition, Dave was a teacher-practitioner and the building level administrator in a school district working very closely with Larry Ainsworth implementing *Common Formative Assessments*. Dave was able to build deep level expertise in Larry's work through classroom experience and from an instructional leadership lens. This has allowed Dave to successfully support numerous schools and districts implementing Larry's CFA not *CFA 2.0* work, which has been doing since 2005.

Dave has also done extensive work around helping school teams work on critical aspects of effective collaboration. His Impact Professional Learning Teams™ model has helped collaborative teacher teams significantly impact student learning & achievement through focusing intentionally on core elements of PLC work such as developing common challenges and authentic instructional protocols—Both of which lead to increasing relational trust and collective teacher efficacy.

Finally, Dave has done deep level work and implementation related to effective grading & feedback practices. He has worked with teams, schools, and even entire districts adopting new grading policies and practices: Des Moines (Iowa) Public Schools, Tri-Creek Schools (Lowell, Indiana), Lyon County Schools, (Nevada), & the Pajaro Unified School District in Watsonville, California. His recent book published through Corwin Press: *Effective Grading Practices for Secondary Teachers: Practical Strategies to Prevent Failure, Recover Credits, and Increase Standards-Based/Referenced Grading*, was

released in March, 2015, and has received excellent reviews from numerous practitioners in the field.

Published multiple times in various publications such as *Principal Leadership* and *Educational Leadership*, Dave has also presented at various national conferences such as ASCD, National Staff Development Council (NSDC), National Association of Secondary School Principals, National School Boards Association (NSBA), and The Superintendents Association (AASA), & twice at the International Visible Learning Conference (2014 & 2015).

Dave stays very busy with his beautiful and supportive wife, Kristen, and three boys (ages 11, 5, and 4), Kristen works full time as well and does most of the raising of the children. He is extremely grateful for being the amazing wife & mother she is everyday. He acknowledges every day that The Lord guides his actions and is the driving force in his life.