

ICOT 18 Call for Proposals

Presenters:

- Julia Connett, 3rd Grade Teacher, Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart
- Briana Kaparis, 2nd Grade Teacher, Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart
- Julie Pfeiffer, Kindergarten Teacher, St. Phillip's Episcopal School
- Anne Rothe, Director, Key Biscayne Presbyterian School
- James Dean, Consultant, Thinking Maps, Inc.

ABSTRACT

Learning to THINK...Thinking to LEARN

Schools and educators have struggled with the concept of teaching students how to THINK and furthermore how to gain student ownership of their THINKING and LEARNING. Three schools in Miami-Dade have taken on this problem and have delved deep into professional learning for their educators through a system of 8 visual tools tied to teaching students what cognition looks like. These tools as a collection, developed by Dr. David Hyerle, are known as Thinking Maps®.

Eric Jensen and Pat Wolfe's brain research denotes the one thing that remains consistent from PreK-Adulthood is that humans think in patterns. Thinking Maps® provides students, educators, administrators and schools with a concrete visual model to represent each of the 8 fundamental THINKING processes (Defining, Describing, Compare/Contrast, Classification, Sequencing, Whole/Part, Cause and Effect, and Seeing Relationships). Furthermore, when utilized in combination transform ordinary THINKING into extraordinary THINKING.

Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart, St. Phillip's Episcopal School and Key Biscayne Presbyterian School set out on a mission to create a school culture of THINKING as a means to more effective and efficient LEARNING. The results have proven that by providing students with consistent patterns of THINKING via their own-created maps the transfer of learning new information has blossomed. This problem of practice, creating a THINKING culture, has been transformed to students THINKING critically, creatively and effectively communicating their ideas.

The long-term implications are limitless as these 3 schools continue on their journey to refine their craft of THINKING and LEARNING for all students. The work continues as they layer on school-based initiatives but the one remaining constant is their goal of creating critical, creative THINKERS and effective communicators.