



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
EDUCATION ACTIVITY EUROPE
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT
EUROPE EAST DISTRICT
UNIT 3084
APO AE 09021

13 June 2017

Grafenwoehr-area schools introduce teacher collaboration program for SY 17/18

The Department of Defense Education Activity's Grafenwoehr schools (Grafenwoehr Elementary, Netzaberg Elementary, Netzaberg Middle School, Vilseck Elementary, and Vilseck High School), in collaboration with USAG Bavaria, are pleased to announce a change in operations beginning in School Year 2017/2018 to introduce job-embedded professional learning and collaboration time. The Europe East District is implementing a one-hour early release each Thursday for Grafenwoehr-area schools; it has similar plans for the other schools in the district. During this collaboration time, educators will meet to analyze assessments, share best practices, assign students to interventions for the following weeks, design aligned standards-based differentiated instruction and work to make sure every child learns to his/her greatest potential. They may also receive training and staff development on research-based strategies, technology, or programs to employ for improving student learning outcomes. Our students will still exceed the expected amount of instructional time per year or Carnegie unit.

Why is this district doing this? There are a number of important reasons, including the implementation of College and Career Ready Standards in math and literacy, the introduction of new technologies in the classroom and adopting practices that leverage the additional resources now available through DoDEA's Restructuring for Student Achievement. In addition, the work of educators has changed throughout the years. The expectation today is that teachers will collaborate with one another for the purpose of improving student achievement. Research supports the positive effect on student achievement when additional teacher collaboration programs have been implemented. To facilitate these collaborative sessions, many school districts throughout the United States have instituted a one hour late-start or early-release for students. DoDEA already has schools in the Pacific, Americas and in Europe using this model.

Students are the heart of everything we do. The Europe East District worked closely with USAG Bavaria's Command and community representatives to develop a plan that would enhance the learning environment for our students while mitigating potential impacts on families. The Garrison has examined the impact on issues as child care, Child Development Centers, and Youth Services. We are beginning now to communicate this change so that our community will be well prepared for the coming school year.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa Hayes".

Melissa Hayes
Community Superintendent
DoDEA Europe East Grafenwoehr Field Office