



# Podcast Discussion Guide for Instructional Staff



Orange County  
Public Schools

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## EPISODE 002

**Topic:** Building Trust and School Culture (<https://bit.ly/39ppNgD>)

**Guests:** Teacher Marcy Simmerson and Principal Kelly Steinke, Killarney Elementary

*Part 2 of a conversation that started with Episode 001*

### Suggested Discussion Questions:

- Started before the House systems were as popular in schools as they are today, this project was somewhat of a leap of faith borne of trust and a willingness to try new things at a school. What struck you most about how teacher Marcy Simmerson and principal Kelly Steinke worked together to determine a way to move forward on innovation?
- The two talked about faculty book studies, Teach Like a Champion, The End of Molasses Classes and #KidsDeservelt, as being foundational for an innovative culture. What ideas do you have for building more of a foundation here at our school?
- We all know the varying dynamics that occur within a school and within a faculty/staffulty. Marcy and Kelly talked about how they purposely set out to get their stakeholders to “buy in” to the ideas they were suggesting, and that starting with baby steps helped. Is there something here at our school for which you’ve been trying to build “buy in”?
- This episode talked a great deal about making sure everyone in the school – students and staff – feeling like it is a place to belong.
  - Do you feel that way here?
  - What makes you feel most connected?
  - What are your ideas to nurture these feelings more or better within our school?
- Both interviewees talked about the importance of PLCs. How do you feel our PLCs are working here, and do you have some ideas to improve them?
- The investment of time Marcy described putting into creating innovative lessons and mapping them to standards, scope and sequence is large. However, there are ways to work together to make sure it doesn’t end up falling on one person’s shoulders.

- Do you have an innovative teaching strategy you've wanted to work on but just can't find the time?
  - Let's take a few of these ideas and break into collaborative groups to discuss.
- Play the video of Marcy's class doing the bug tasting.
  - Who would want to eat bugs with your class? Who would never?
  - What do you think about me – would I eat bugs with our students like Kelly did?

**Related Materials:**

[Teach Like a Champion \(https://bit.ly/378JaYe\)](https://bit.ly/378JaYe)

[The End of Molasses Classes \(https://bit.ly/33dtRwd\)](https://bit.ly/33dtRwd)

[Kids Deserve It \(https://amzn.to/2UZLWcR\)](https://amzn.to/2UZLWcR)

[#KidsDeserveIt \(https://bit.ly/3ftj3yY\)](https://bit.ly/3ftj3yY)

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