



# LUTHERAN EAST

Christ-Centered Education for Life

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[www.lutheraneast.org](http://www.lutheraneast.org)

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### **What I did:**

Lutheran High School East underwent a dramatic redevelopment of its curricula and academic product in 2010. The goal of this redevelopment was to match the curricula to the student population at the school and in the community, which had seen substantive change since the founding of the school.

Despite significant time spent redesigning our academic product, no process was ever implemented to regularly update that product or the curricula. Without a process to for maintenance of the curricula, the school could conceivably end up in a position once again where the academic product does not match the student population. My project was designed to remedy that situation.

Lutheran East subscribed to an online curriculum mapping tool – *Curriculum Trak*. Teachers were trained on how to utilize the software and the faculty agreed on a standard curriculum template. Faculty members then inputted their current curricula into the tool, developing standardized curricula throughout the school.

Using *Curriculum Trak*, reports were then generated by subject area that showed the strengths and weaknesses of each department area in regards to state, national and ACT standards. Departments, in conjunction with school administration, then recommended changes to curricula for the 2014-2015 school year to address weaknesses shown in the maps after comparing the maps to data from standardized testing.

Finally, a standing Curriculum Committee was developed to ensure that this review process happens on a yearly basis. This will ensure that the annual data we receive on standardized tests will be incorporated into curricula so that our academic product stays in step with our student population.

### **What did I learn?**

- ❖ Part of our curriculum template was to describe how the Gospel is integrated into each unit of a class. That was a larger challenge for our teachers, despite each being a committed Christian. I would not have expected that – but pushing our teachers to do so has made an impact on our students.
- ❖ Teachers within departments were much more cut-off from one another than I knew. This process pushed collaboration in ways that was uncomfortable for some but has been worthwhile.
- ❖ Curriculum mapping is more than just a way to make certain that our academic product matches our students – it is a way of making certain that our school is relevant to our community at large.

### **What difference did it make?**

- ❖ Lutheran East now has a fully standardized curriculum that is saved electronically and can be utilized by anyone in the school community. If a teacher leaves, their replacement has a curriculum that reflects who we are and can build from it instead of starting from scratch.
- ❖ Collaboration inside of departments has increased, along with a focus on the Gospel in each subject area.
- ❖ Updated curricula are prepared for the 2014-2015 school year and a process is in place for those updates to continue annually.