Our partnership and work with Catapult Learning has proved to be invaluable in terms of Teachscape training and ongoing support. As a third party provider of professional development, we’ve come to rely on them heavily for their expertise in both the Teachscape implementation and their knowledge in terms of quality instructional and assessment practices. I would not recommend implementing Teachscape without Catapult’s support and training.

—Mr. Matthew Bauman, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools
As a principal, would you recommend Teachscape to another diocese?

“I recommend Teachscape to other schools because it has brought a level of efficiency that allows me to conduct walks in every classroom every week. Prior to our Teachscape implementation, classroom walkthroughs were conducted with a paper template, transferred into a computer document, and finally shared with the teacher. The use of the Teachscape observation tool allows for many visits, efficient recording of data, and quick sharing of the data. I am confident that this implementation will have a positive effect on teaching and learning in our school.”

—Mrs. Janet Troppman, Principal, Holy Angels Elementary School

“I recommend Teachscape as an efficient and effective means of institutionalizing increased contact between principals, teachers, and students in the context of the classroom...The principal does not need to be in the classroom long to observe the objectives, management styles, best practices, student engagement, and classroom atmosphere. Prioritized frequent short visits help to develop a better rapport between the principal and the teachers. Stress levels go down as teachers get comfortable with the principal being in the classroom weekly as a coach and mentor. Finally, reflective dialogue with staff has become more conversational, allowing me to target more clearly defined and specific components of the lesson when I meet with them.”

—Mr. Tim Shrift, Principal, Immaculate Conception Elementary School

“I heartily recommend Teachscape to any diocese that desires institutional discipline in the areas of walkthrough data collection, instructional improvement, and renewed focus on sound instructional strategies.”

—Mr. Erick Chittle, Principal, St. Francis High School

“I was hired nine years ago to lead a school. I finally have a tool to help me support and improve the most integral factor in becoming a highly successful school: the teacher. While still busy with all the managerial duties as a principal, Teachscape is helping to support and develop me into an instructional leader—an essential quality for our ever-changing schools.”

—Mrs. Lori Phillips, Principal, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Middle School

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THE RESULTS
The Teachscape walkthrough resulted in more than honing a five-year plan for professional development. Right away, teachers began to demonstrate positive changes in their instructional styles. The principal at Holy Angels Elementary reported that after sharing data collected from the first walkthrough with teachers, she observed the teachers using the results and reflections to turn around instruction by the next visit. At Immaculate Conception Elementary, lesson objectives had quickly morphed from scribbled “to-do” lists to visible, student-centered learning objectives, creating an environment where everyone knows what the learning target is.

Across the board, principals reported an increase in clarity and focus among the learning community. Mr. Buell and Mr. Bauman share this perception: “The heightened focus on high-yield instructional strategies has resulted in crisp and purposeful delivery of lessons. Furthermore, the conversations that are fostered in the reflective part of the process allow the teacher and principal to monitor progress on individual instructional goals as well as institutional progress.”