Learning Walk Notes:

A few things to consider:

* The walk was scheduled at least a month in advance with the building principal.  Administrators are aware that Learning Walks are non-evaluative and for teachers only!
* After walk date was approved, the coaches asked for volunteer to open their classrooms to walkers (4-2 weeks before walk)
* Next the coaches made a request for teachers to walk and visit classrooms (3-1 week before walk) - Teachers are aware that they will be giving up their prep time to participate in the walk.  On this particular walk, the coaches had 98% of the staff participate as walkers
* If a focus for the walk was determined, the coaches notified the staff prior to the walk (5-2 days before walk)
* Coaches created and emailed the walk schedule a day or two before the walk.  This eliminates the schedule being overlooked or lost in a file.
* Walkers always assemble in the Coach's Office prior to the walk.  This gives team members time to take students to specials.
* A teacher-leader, not a coach, leads the walk.  The teacher-leader determines how long the walkers will remain in the classroom and how much time is given for brief discussions in the hall while keeping to the schedule.
* After visiting each classroom, the team returns to the Coach's Office for reflection.  The teacher-leader documents the team's observations.  During the reflection, teachers offer suggestions to coaches for the next walk (the next focus, a specific grade level to see, a specific "special" to see, a specific content area to see, etc)
* Days following the walk, the coaches compile the observations and email the staff a compilation.
* The purpose of every walk is to note positive teaching practices and to learn from one another.  Great ideas are shared.  Walks give teachers an opportunity to see the continuity among the staff.  This is a very effective way to see the PA standards' vertical progression and increase of rigor.