

**PELHAM PUBLIC SCHOOL  
CURRICUM, INSTRUCTION & PERSONNEL**

**Performance Based Assessment Capstone Experiences**

Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> grade project: “Make a Change”

The fifth grade Performance Based Assessment (PBA) pilot focuses on the Essential Question, “How can I influence change?” Students engage in several pre-assessments and journal entries in which they articulate their school community’s strengths and areas of need and then envision what it could be like. Students study ordinary citizens and famous men and women who have influenced change. They engage in a research project studying one of these change agents. For the final performance assessment, they work alone or in a group, researching a topic of interest that they believe will influence a positive change in their school community. They are currently researching, writing and creating a final project (presentation, letter, etc.) that will be presented in front of an authentic audience/appropriate stakeholder(s), who will provide feedback. Students will be assessed on the content of their project, their presentation/persuasive skills, and on metacognition.

8<sup>th</sup> Grade MYP Citizenship Project

The eighth grade English teachers and school library media specialist will develop a service project MYP unit to be integrated into the curriculum this spring, which will not be called a Community Project to avoid misrepresentation and confusion. During the course of this unit, students will work in small groups to define a goal to address a need within a community and develop a proposal for action to serve that need. In short, students would be planning, but not (in most cases) actually implementing the service plan. They will complete a process journal during the course of their project, which will culminate in a class presentation of 5-10 minutes, delivered to their class. Students will work with their classmates in each particular period of English class to complete their projects. Teachers will facilitate the formation of student groups. Attached please find a more detailed description of the experience.

PMHS 12<sup>th</sup> grade Economics and ELA Project CREATE:  
Citizenship, Responsibility, Engaging, Action, Technology, Energy

The 12th grade Performance Based Assessment (PBA) pilot focuses on the following Essential Question, "How can I make a positive contribution to the community/world in which I live?" Students were asked to explore different dynamics of citizenship and their passions through the creation of a research paper and presentation. Presentation options include creating an online multimedia publication, community showcase presentation or speech, which will allow students to tie their passions to a personal social or socioeconomic issue of their choice. This PBA is based on the Common Core Learning Standards, it is interdisciplinary through the level of student choice in the assessment, and it blends content, skills and academic dispositions such as perseverance and metacognition. Additionally, the PBA calls for an authentic audience beyond the classroom. These pilot PBAs were presented to the school community over the course of two periods in the PMHS Information Center. Students presented their work to peers from other classes as well as teachers and administrators creating a sense of true ownership over the content, process and product.