MS Parent Coffee:
Flexible Learning Communities

11 November 2019

SAS
SINGAPORE AMERICAN SCHOOL

COMMUNITY NORMS

As an SAS community member I agree to hold myself to a high standard of personal conduct in my interactions and communications with students, faculty, and parents. This means I will adhere to the SAS Statement of Community by:

- Contributing productively and positively
- Refraining from discrimination (religious, ethnic, racial, sexual, or gender)
- Going to the source
- Sharing accurate information
- Assuming positive intent

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Today's Learning Targets

- Parents will be able to explain why flexible learning environments are beneficial to student learning.
- Develop shared understanding of how we gather feedback, make adjustments, and measure efficacy.
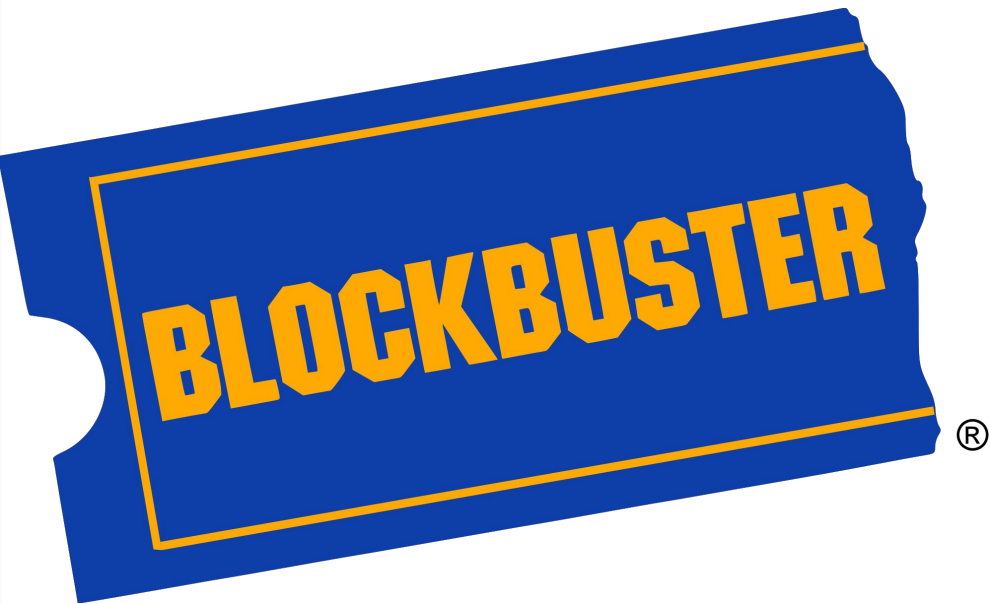- Reflect on next steps.

Math	**8:30-9:30**
English	**9:35-10:35**
Science	**10:55-11:55**
Lunch	**11:55-12:45**
Phys. Ed.	**12:45-1:35**
Social Studies	**1:35-2:25**
Spanish/Chinese	**2:25-3:15**

Where Are We Headed?

TONY WAGNER
TRANSFORMING EDUCATION

7 SURVIVAL SKILLS

Critical Thinking & Problem Solving

Assessing & Analyzing Information

Initiative & Entrepreneurship

Agility & Adaptability

Collaboration

Curiosity & Imagination

Oral & Written Communication

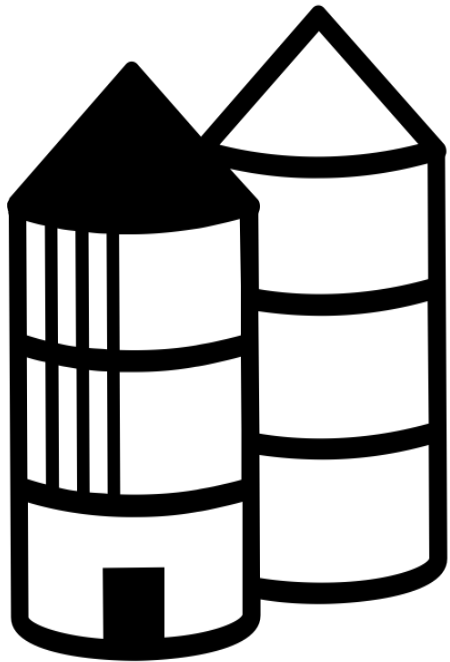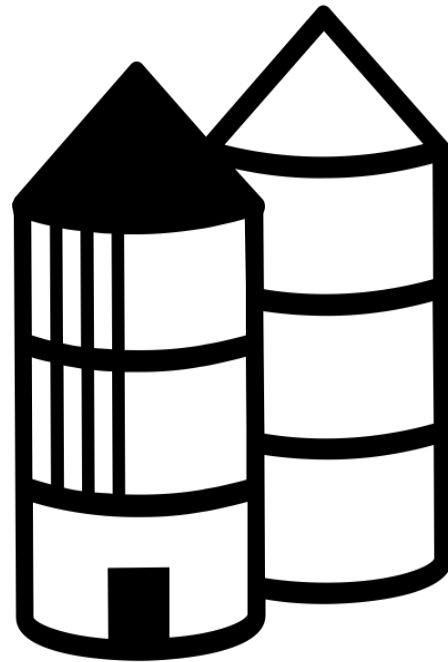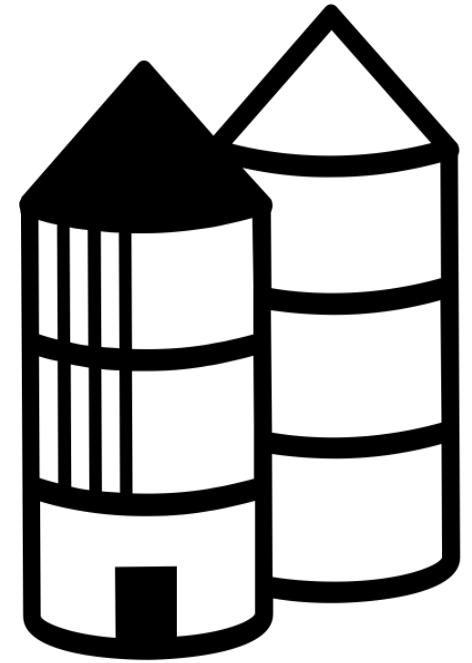|	Collaboration	Communication	Content	Critical Thinking	Creative Innovation	Confidence
4	Building it together	Tell a joint story	Expertise	Evidence	Vision	Dare to fail
3	Back and forth	Dialogue	Making connections	Opinions	Voice	Calculated risks
2	Side by side	Show and tell	Wide breadth/ Shallow understanding	Truths differ	Means-end	Where do I stand?
1	On my own	Raw emotion	Early learning/ Situation specific	Seeing is believing	Experimentation	Barrel on

LEVEL

Forbes Magazine July 2017

DESIRED STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

CONTENT KNOWLEDGE

CHARACTER

COLLABORATION

COMMUNICATION

CREATIVITY

CRITICAL THINKING

CULTURAL COMPETENCE

space   time   subject
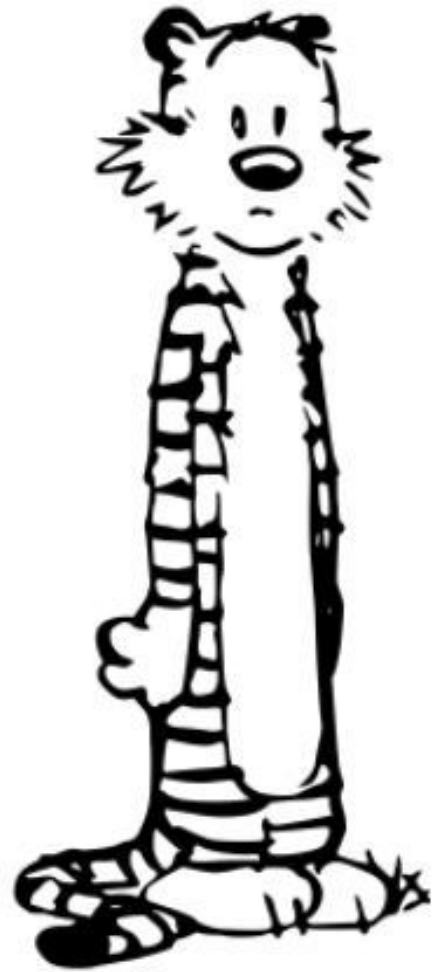
Time

THERE'S NEVER ENOUGH TIME TO DO ALL THE NOTHING YOU WANT

Task	Length of Time
Complete a 5 km loop	
Label the capital cities of the European Union on a map	
Pack for a 1-week trip	
Solve 10 multi-step equations	
Read and annotate a 5 page news article	

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$$\frac{3}{4}x + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2}x + \frac{3}{4}$$

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How do Learning Communities Address Students' Different Time Needs

More adults available to address learning needs

Teams developing flex schedules

- Launch an interdisciplinary unit
- Teach interdisciplinary workshops
- Host guest speakers
- Allow for student voice and choice
- Address socio-emotional needs
- Develop tech/digital citizenship skills
- Exhibit student learning
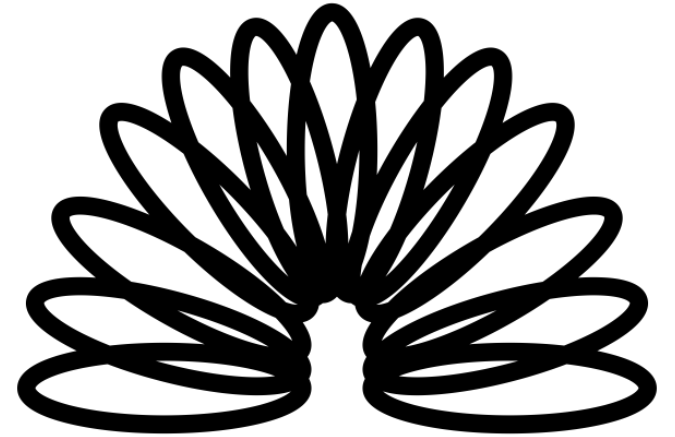
Teacher	Day 1		Day 2	
	Session 1 (1:37 - 2:17)	Session 2 (2:20 - 3:00)	Session 3 (1:37 - 2:17)	Session 4 (2:20 - 3:00)
Bucknall	Silent Reading (22)	Grammar practice (17)	Silent Reading (28)	Grammar practice (18)
Carter	Review of Expressions and Vocabulary- Math 7 Only (20) **JASON**	Review of Equations- Math 7 Only (19)	Vowelless - Math Game with a prize- Math 7+ Only (13)	Math 7+ - Algebra Extension INTRO TO CODING (18) **MELISSA**
Madsen	Climbing session in rock gym (12)	Climbing session in rock gym (20)	Mile pacing workshop (17)	Mile pacing workshop (16)
Curnett	History Breakout (12)	ITN Help/Work (27) **JO**	History Breakout (13)	ITN Help/Work (23)
Olsen	Creative Writing (12)	Science Practicing presentations	Creative Writing (4)	Creative Writing (9)
Martin	Science Analyze interpret Data (graphing)	Using evidence to support reasoning when writing explanations (4)	Reflection on Analyze and Interpreting Data (10)	Using evidence to support reasoning when writing explanations. (11)
Trainor	Integer Operations Review (12)	Basic Math Facts (9)	Puzzles to Develop Visual-Spatial Thinking (11)	Science Practicing Presentations

Space

What type of spaces do you see here?
What do you notice about the furniture that is in the space?

Rules of Engagement

Work in whatever way makes you most effective **providing it does not impact the effectiveness of others**

Use all facilities only as intended
Eating only in designated areas
No camping
No exceptions

What a learning community is NOT...

- 110 students in 1 open space
- Always noisy
- Incohesive
- A "free for all"
- Unscheduled
- Kids decide everything they learn

What a learning community IS ...

- Varied, dynamic and responsive
- Purposeful disciplinary connections
- Flexible student grouping
- Learning activities dictate the space
- Teachers have collective responsibility

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Think about the different skills you need to be proficient at in order to plan a family vacation.

Airline ticket

Why Interdisciplinary Learning

Interdisciplinary learning activities can have a number of advantages for teachers and students. Interdisciplinary learning:

• allows students to develop an awareness of the interconnectedness that exist among the disciplines, and between disciplines and the real-world application of knowledge.

• focuses on higher-level thinking and decision making, which encourages students to become aware of and make choices about behaviours and thought processes they will be engaged in while learning.

From: Elements of Effective Teaching Practice (www.learnalberta.ca)

Teacher Practice

The result? **6 key benefits that helped teachers and students succeed:**

#1 Better instruction

100% of the study participants said their **teaching improved**—collaboration gave them more support to try new ideas and fine-tune activities.

#2 Expanded teaching toolkit

Collaboration gave teachers access to **more resources** and promoted use of **recommended instructional practices.**

#3 Lesson consistency

Teachers felt they were now **on the same page** in terms of planning and delivering instruction.

#4 More inclusive methods

Conversations started **focusing more on student learning** and how to teach to different learning styles.

#5 Increased student effort

Academic rigor shot up significantly as teachers developed core competencies they expected their students to meet.

#6 Higher teacher responsibility

Teachers developed a **greater sense of accountability** for promoting student success and meeting school goals.

From the Brookes Inclusion Lab (2016)

synthesize

Individual Jot

Some whys to consider...

Why learning communities?

Why flexibility?

Why collaboration?

Why learner as self-navigator? Creator? As innovative designer? Problem solver?

Why teacher as advocate and coach for learners?

How do we know it's working?

Measures of Academic Progress Data

Average RIT scores over time - by grade

MAP test version changes 5th to 6th

	Mathematics				
	Spring 15	Spring 16	Spring 17	Spring 18	Spring 19
Grade 3	216	216	217	217	214
Grade 4	232	226	228	229	231
Grade 5	239	240	241	241	241
Grade 6	240	238	242	240	240
Grade 7	246	249	248	250	249
Grade 8	254	256	257	256	257

(note: +/- 3 RIT points is considered insignificant)

Data Walk

What questions do you have when you look at the data?

Resources

Most Likely to Succeed — Preparing Our Kids for the Innovation Era — Tony Wagner, Ted Dintersmith

Groups at Work — Strategies and Structures for Professional Learning — Laura Lipton and Bruce Wellman

TREVOR MACKENZIE — Dive Into Inquiry — Amplify Learning and Empower Student Voice — Foreword by Alec Couros, PhD

The Language of School Design — Design Patterns for 21st Century Schools — Prakash Nair, Randall Fielding, Jeffery Lackney

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER — Radical Candor — Be a Kick-Ass Boss Without Losing Your Humanity — Kim Scott

What School Could Be — Ted Dintersmith

KATH MURDOCH — The Power of Inquiry — Foreword by Guy Claxton

LAUNCH — Using Design Thinking to Boost Creativity and Bring Out the Maker in Every Student — John Spencer and A.J. Juliani

Ken Robinson, Ph.D. and Lou Aronica — Creative Schools — The Grassroots Revolution That's Transforming Education

Grant Lichtman — Moving the Rock — Seven Levers WE Can Press to Transform Education

Make Learning Personal — The What, Who, WOW, Where, and Why — Barbara Bray, Kathleen McClaskey — Foreword by John H. Clarke

Jacobs, Alcock — BOLD MOVES FOR SCHOOLS — How We Create Remarkable Learning Environments

Resources

Websites

TRi Time Toolkit

"Whether or not you discover your talents and passions is partly a matter of opportunity. If you've never been sailing, or picked up an instrument, or tried to teach or to write fiction, how would you know if you had a talent for these things?"

-- Sir Ken Robinson

MS PD TOOLKIT

Bootcamps

Conferring Cheat Sheet--TRi Time

Engaging in Argument from Evidence (CER)
(Claim, Evidence, and Reasoning)

Co-Teaching Flow Chart

Personalized Learning BINGO

Rubrics, Lessons, PD tools