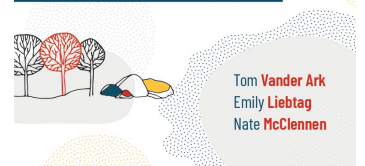


# Power of Place: Authentic Learning Through Place-Based Education

By: Tom Vander Ark, Emily Liebttag, and Nate McClennen

Dispelling the notion that place-based education is an approach limited to those who can afford it, *The Power of Place* describes how schools in diverse contexts urban and rural, public and private have adopted place-based programs as a way to better engage students and attain three important goals of education: student agency, equity, and community.



## Place-Based Education helps to:


1. Increase student outcomes
2. Increase engagement and relevance
3. Increase community impact

## Six Principles of Place-Based Education:




**COMMUNITY AS CLASSROOM:**

Communities serve as learning ecosystems for schools where local and regional experts, experiences and places are part of the expanded definition of a classroom.



**INQUIRY-BASED:**

Learning is grounded in observing, asking relevant questions, making predictions and collecting data to understand the world through economic, ecological and cultural lenses. This approach allows for individual truth seeking based on evidence.



**LEARNER-CENTERED:**

Learning is personally relevant to students and enables student agency. The teacher serves as a guide or facilitator to learning.




**LOCAL TO GLOBAL CONTEXT:**

Local learning serves as a model for understanding regional and global challenges, opportunities and connections. An understanding of self is a starting point to understanding place.



**DESIGN THINKING:**

Design thinking provides a systematic approach for students to make meaningful impact in communities through the curriculum.



**INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH:**

The curriculum matches the real world where the traditional subject area content, skills and dispositions are taught through an integrated and frequently project-based approach where all learners are accountable and challenged.



To learn more please contact Taylor at [Taylor@GettingSmart.com](mailto:Taylor@GettingSmart.com) or use the QR code to visit [GettingSmart.com/PowerOfPlace](http://GettingSmart.com/PowerOfPlace).

