

Educational Innovation for All Students

Week 7: Project-Based Learning:
Teaching that Engages - Part 2

Project-Based Learning

Project-based learning (PBL) is at the heart of our instructional approach. In PBL, learning is contextual, creative, and shared. Students collaborate on meaningful projects that require critical thinking, creativity, and communication in order for them to answer challenging questions or solve complex problems. By making learning relevant to them in this way, students see a purpose for mastering state-required skills and content concepts. Students are not just assessed on their understanding of academic content, but on their ability to successfully apply that content when solving authentic problems. Through this process, project-based learning gives students the opportunity to develop the real life skills required for success in today's world.

Problem-Based Learning

New Tech Network schools also use problem-based learning. PrBL is a form of inquiry-based instruction used primarily in Mathematics that places the students in several smaller problem scenarios rather than a single, large project scenario. Supported by NCTM and the NSF, much of what makes PBL so successful is present in a PrBL environment, including Entry Events, the Need-to-Know (NTK) process, and student-centered scaffolding.

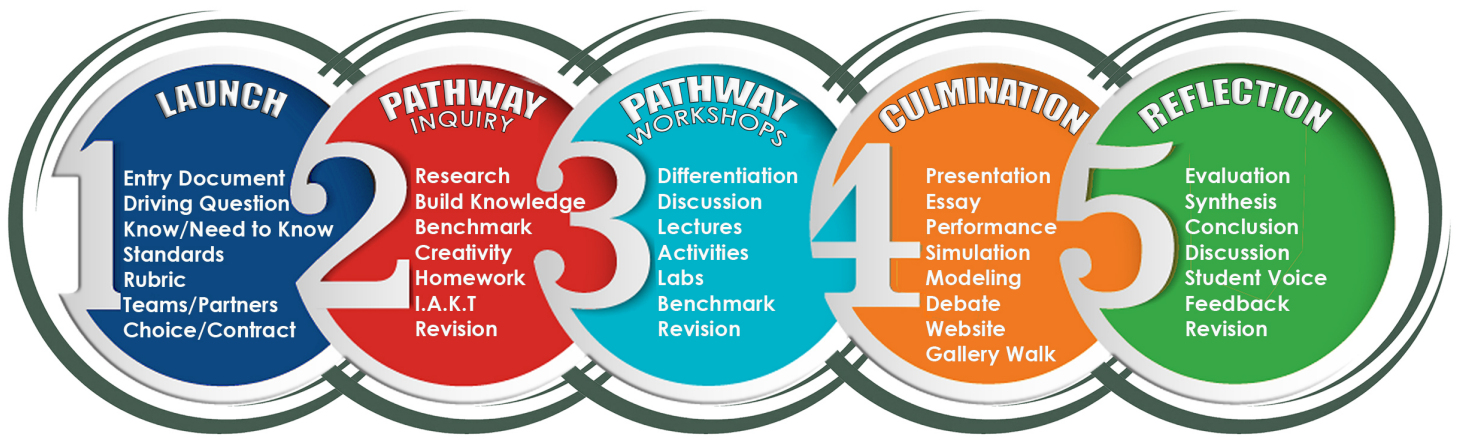
The following is an article to further understand problem-based learning: "Is Edgar Allen Poe Really a Mathematician?" by Judy Brown, Jennifer Helton, Tamra C. Ragland, M. Todd Edwards
<http://www.ictm.org/assets/docs/IMT/IMT2015/91-365-1-pb.pdf>



VIDEO



Warrior Project-Based Learning Process



"Students learn better when given the opportunity to interact with and experience the learning. If you ask students what they like most about school, they will tell you about a really great Science experiment, making a Public Service Announcement (PSA) or some other sort of video, an art project, or something else that places them in the learning. That is because these are examples of students making their own meaning. Project-based learning engages the students and makes content relevant."

~ Andrew Lock, Winton Woods High School Social Studies Teacher

"Project-based learning challenges me in ways that I never thought of before. School has always been an easy ride for me but now it feels like more of a challenge. It feels like I have to work harder than I usually would. PBL pushes me to step out of my little box and expand my horizons to the world around me. Working with different people, communicating with confidence and intelligence, and showing my knowledge in the finest way possible has all been thanks to project-based learning. I can honestly say I am a better student academically because of it."

~Payton Mack, Class of 2017

Look for more upcoming information on New Tech Network:

Week 1: WHY NEW TECH NETWORK?

Week 2: WHAT IS NEW TECH NETWORK?

Week 3: PROJECT-BASED LEARNING: Teaching that Engages - Part 1

Week 4: GROWTH MINDSET: Culture that Empowers - Part 1

Week 5: DIGITAL LITERACY: Technology that Enables

Week 6: COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS: Outcomes that Matter

Week 7: PROJECT-BASED LEARNING: Teaching that Engages - Part 2

Week 8: GROWTH MINDSET: Culture that Empowers - Part 2