CSD CHELTENHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT

Project Based Learning Pilot Design Team

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Why Project Based Learning?

PBL…

1. Provides **Equity** and **Access**
2. Builds **Community**
3. Increases **Engagement**
4. Develops **21st Century Skills**
5. Offers **Personalization**

CURRICULUM DESIGN

- PBL prioritizes **endurance** (value beyond the assessment), **alignment** (connection to future learning) and **leverage** (application across multiple disciplines) as the guiding principles in curriculum design
- Projects are designed to provide meaning and engagement, and are the primary means of assessment
- The PBL pilot curriculum will be developed by the PBL teaching cohort, with support from High Tech High and the Workshop School

Traditional Projects	Project Based Learning
Can be done at home without teacher guidance or team collaboration	**Requires teacher guidance and team collaboration**
Usually focused on a narrow set of curricular goals	**Incorporate cross-curricular standards and are designed to address real-world problems**
The teacher work occurs mainly after the project is complete	**The teacher work occurs mainly before the project starts**

Traditional Projects	Project Based Learning
Often based upon directions and done “like last year”	**Often completely fresh projects each year, or rebuilt**
Often graded on a generic rubric or assign points without descriptions	**Graded based on a clearly defined rubric made or modified for the specific project**
Students have limited opportunities to make choices during the project	**Students make most of the choices during the project within pre-approved guidelines**

Examples of Traditional vs Project Based Learning

Traditional Learning	Project Based Learning
Students listen to a lecture on monetary and fiscal policy	Students try to save the nation from an economic crisis similar to the 1970's old embargo
Student complete a worksheet on Newton's Laws	Collaborative groups work to develop a new sport to be played on the moon
Students write a research paper on the Great Depression	Teams build a museum exhibit that captures the experiences of historically disadvantaged groups in the 1930s

ASSESSMENT/MEASURES OF SUCCESS

For the PBL Pilot:
Student Engagement
Student Perception
Student Performance
Attendance
Parent Perception
Re-enrollment
Teacher Perception

ASSESSMENT/MEASURES OF SUCCESS

For the Students:
Co-created Rubrics
Individual
Group Assessment
Frequent Formative Assessment
21st Century Skill Development
Self/Peer/Teacher/Audience Evaluation

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Professional Development supported by Avalon Foundation
- A district-wide cohort of 75 teachers are in the PBL strand, facilitated by the Workshop School (Philadelphia, PA)
- PBL pilot teachers will embed themselves at High Tech High (San Diego, CA) for one week to experience culture and develop curriculum
- PBL pilot teachers will continue to develop curriculum in Spring and Summer 2017
- High Tech High and Workshop School staff will provide virtual and onsite support throughout the pilot year

STAFFING

Project Based Learning is an instructional strategy that requires creativity, collaboration, strong interpersonal skills, and a growth mindset.

9th Grade:

1-English
1-Social Studies
1-Biology
.5-Special Education
.2-Unified Arts

10th Grade:

1-English
1-Social Studies
1-Chemistry
.5-Special Education
.2-Unified Arts
.2-Health

STUDENT SELECTION

- Project Based Learning is an **EQUITY** project. CSD is committed to building a PBL cohort that reflects the diversity of the CHS student population
- Teachers on the PBL design team presented an overview of Project Based Learning to all 8th and 9th grade students in small group settings
- 150 students attended 90 minute interactive workshops facilitated by the Workshop School
- 9th grade students received a second presentation in an assembly format
- An additional after-school interactive workshop will be offered after winter break

Student Cohorts:

9th grade: 60-66 students

10th grade: 60-66 students

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PROPOSED SCHEDULE

Grade 9	Grade 10
PBL English, Social Studies, Science	Math
	Elective
	Elective
PBL Seminar/Bio Lab	Lunch
Lunch	PBL English, Social Studies, Science
PE/Elective	
Math	
Elective	PBL Seminar/Health

Ensures access to the greatest number of students, maintaining opportunity for students to explore the wide range of offerings in our comprehensive high school

FUTURE PLANS

- Add 11th grade PBL cohort in 2018-19
- Students enrolled in PBL are re-enrolled each year unless they opt out
- Ongoing PD to support PBL as an instructional strategy throughout the district
- Traditional courses continue to be offered at CHS; PBL offered as an **option**