

FARBER EDUCATIONAL CAMPUS FALL UPDATE



We just wanted to share some of the exciting things developing for the Farber Educational Campus through current work being done by our Alternative Education Teachers and Staff. Executive Director Michael Niehoff's focus and energy are on the instructional programs and student opportunities. Questions about problem and project-based learning, civic engagement, career technical education and things pedagogical can be directed to Mr. Niehoff. Questions about other things should probably be directed to the site principals. (Note: any item **highlighted in green** is a live url link)

Meanwhile, we wanted to share some exciting, interesting and positive things happening in preparation for the Farber Educational Campus. Here you go:

QUICK CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction continues to roll along at the new Farber Educational Campus. Here are a few updates:

- Science Lab Stations are now in the Science Labs.
- Footings are now on the outdoor Amphitheater Stage.
- Parking areas being installed.
- Outdoor Yard for Logistics Program now has all concrete poured
- Current estimates are that the Student Union / CTE Logistics Building will be completed by December, while the Academic Building will be in March / April.
- Educational Resource Center staff may begin to occupy Farber in April.

PROBLEM & PROJECT-BASED LEARNING / CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

First and foremost, if any of our teachers are engaged in any projects or project planning, they are invited to let Michael Niehoff and the Principals know about them. They would love to help promote those, as well as provide

any support and resources. Mr. Niehoff has been discussing and sharing project ideas with many teachers and would love to do this even more.

Before some **PBL** items, there are some exciting things happening in **Civic Engagement**. In partnership with the [Civic Education Center](#), there are eight teachers from Cambridge and JE Young that have signed on to work on an extended civic engagement project for the second semester. These teachers are:

Elva Carlos

Fay Opoku

Meliza Gonzalez

Jennifer Gross

Joel Smith

Chris Valle

Robert Vega

Ryan Williams

They will collaborate with teachers and leaders from the Civic Education Center. The student projects will be eligible for the [California State Seal of Civic Engagement](#) and for a culminating project showcase and presentation at the Tower Theater in May. Teachers from the Civic Education Center will work directly with these teachers and their students throughout the spring semester. Project topics will vary and again will come from the teachers and their students. More to come and we will keep you posted. Congrats and thanks again to those eight teachers for embarking on this project.

Project ideas and inspiration come from a variety of sources. It can be the news or current events, partners, teacher or student interests, things like the [United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals](#) and daily conversations.

One recent conversation with Cambridge Cyber Security Teacher **Peter Fortuna** resulted in a great project idea. Peter and Michael Niehoff were discussing potential projects and examining different demographics related to cyber security, safety, fraud and crime. They generated several different project ideas. But one rose to the top. In the second semester, Peter and his students will work with senior citizens from our community where our students will be teaching them how to be more aware and informed online.

Ultimately, the students will produce a **How-To Cyber Safety Guide for Senior Citizens**. This is PBL, Civic Engagement and Service Learning at its finest. This could be a model project for all high schools and definitely worth profiling and sharing. Thanks Peter and we look forward to seeing updates.

Cambridge English Teacher **Kara Marquez** is launching a project related to the affordability of the American Dream. **Joel Smith**, another Cambridge English Teacher, recently shared some student work from an Interview Narrative Project. Student **Alain Martinez Verduzco** interviewed Cambridge Science Teacher **Jadrian Ejercito** and you can view Alain's [Final Presentation](#).

Again, these are just a handful of examples and there are many more to come. We need all of our teachers to share any of the projects that they are currently designing and planning. Please send any current or future projects with Mr. Niehoff or the site principals.



In response to many teachers' questions and ideas, Farber has also embarked on a new project brand and program. It's called **SHIFT** which stands for **Sustainability, Housing, Innovation, Food and Technology**. The intention here is to see if we can connect our projects to these topics. This is exclusively something that belongs to the Farber Educational Campus and Community. Teachers can opt in anytime with any of their classes and work to develop projects addressing problems, issues and challenges related to **Sustainability, Housing, Innovation, Food and Technology**. This will be a way for our teachers and students to connect to an overarching theme and project community. Farber partners will embrace this and there are endless projects and problems that one can connect to those topics.

"I think that **SHIFT** could be an amazing program for Farber students to gain authentic, hands-on learning experiences. Often, our students are dismissed because they attend a continuation school," said Cambridge Science Teacher **Jadrian Ejercito**. "However, our students have so much to offer our

community and I think this program would go a long way in supporting our students and recognizing their achievements.”

JE Young Principal **Carson Wood** added, “Through our SHIFT model at Farber, students can cultivate the seeds for a brighter Fresno. This is where thoughtful design of projects and problem-solving ideas can build a civic-centered community in the Central Valley.”

Naturally, teachers and students can always design projects that are outside of **SHIFT**. It is just one way to align and connect. And again, this is an opt-in for teachers.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

You may have heard about some of the tremendous community partners that have already signed on to work with the Farber Educational Campus. See much of the current list of partners at the bottom of the home or front page of the Farber website [HERE](#).



We would like to share a couple examples of early partner development work with our Farber community. For our new Logistics Program, a partnership is emerging between the Farber Educational Campus and the [Central California Food Bank](#). The current work is focusing on the Logistics Program being a key part of the receiving, fulfillment and distribution of food especially going to many of our elementary school food programs. Many other ideas and possibilities also are in discussions, but this partnership will serve as a model for Farber and beyond. Our students will be learning the technical and scientific aspects of logistics, supply chain management and warehousing, while also supporting elementary students and schools, the Food Bank and the greater community. Again, this is PBL, Civic Engagement and Service Learning combined in a Career Technical Environment.



Public Services CTE Instructor **John Mendoza** has been closely working with [Central Valley American Red Cross](#) on a variety of projects and collaborations. These related to diverse topics such as emergency and disaster preparation and management, as well as home fire alarm installation, multiple certifications and more. This is just getting started, but is well on its way to being another model partnership.

PODCAST AND TEACHERS

Remember that the Farber Educational Campus has a podcast called the [Farber Frontlines](#) and it features a great interview with **Francine and Murray Farber** about their lives of civic engagement and service learning among others. Several of our teachers are scheduled to record an upcoming episode and there will be more to come with both teachers and students. Interested teachers and students should contact Michael Niehoff.

PROFESSIONAL READING WITH PRIZES

(Prizes for Cambridge and JEY Teachers only)

We are inviting our teachers to choose one or more of these articles to read. Those teachers that read and send Mr. Niehoff an email with what they learned, appreciated, gathered or reflected upon while reading will be eligible for some **raffle prizes**. The first seven teachers that respond will be guaranteed a **Starbucks** beverage of their choice. Here are the choices:

[Embracing Partners: 7 Human Resources of PBL](#)

[5 Ways Face-to-Face Learning Will Need to Differentiate to Contrast Virtual Learning](#)

[5 Ways to Make All Students Lead Learners](#)

Prizes are at stake (for Cambridge and JEY Teachers only). Read away and respond.

Always check the [Farber Educational Campus Website](#) for updates and news on partners, podcasts, programs, projects and people.

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