

PROJECT-BASED LEARNING

WHERE THINKING COMES ALIVE

On October 31, 2025, TAF@Saghalie Middle School became a living laboratory where nearly 400 students demonstrated that knowing how to think empowers learners beyond simply knowing what to think. Our first schoolwide Exhibition of Learning showcased authentic intellectual engagement within every classroom.



STEM Garden journals :medicinal benefits of native plants in our garden



6th grade math games

LEARNING ROOTED IN PURPOSE

Real learning begins when students grapple with questions that matter. Our students dive into community-centered challenges that demand critical thinking, problem-solving, and genuine intellectual curiosity. Throughout each project cycle, they share their evolving thinking, seek meaningful feedback, and refine their understanding. This process develops the kind of analytical minds and collaborative spirits our world desperately needs.



8th graders solving housing problems in Federal Way

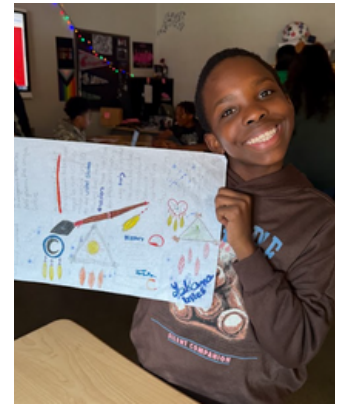
STUDENT THINKING IN ACTION

Sixth Grade Critical Thinkers investigated Egyptian artifacts they chose, sharing why these objects reveal essential truths about ancient civilization. In mathematics, they tackled a universal middle school dilemma: "What meaningful learning can happen when students finish early with their classwork?" Their solution involved designing engaging math games that transform downtime into intellectual opportunity.

Seventh Grade Problem Analysts wrestled with complex intersections of sovereignty, environmental science, and mathematical reasoning. They created one-pagers exploring sovereignty concepts and designed research-based posters addressing pollution and erosion challenges Gig Harbor's growing community faces. When Chef Tom from Northwest Food Alliance brought ingredients for pancake-making, students didn't just follow recipes—they applied fractional thinking and scaling concepts while discovering how mathematical precision impacts daily life experiences.

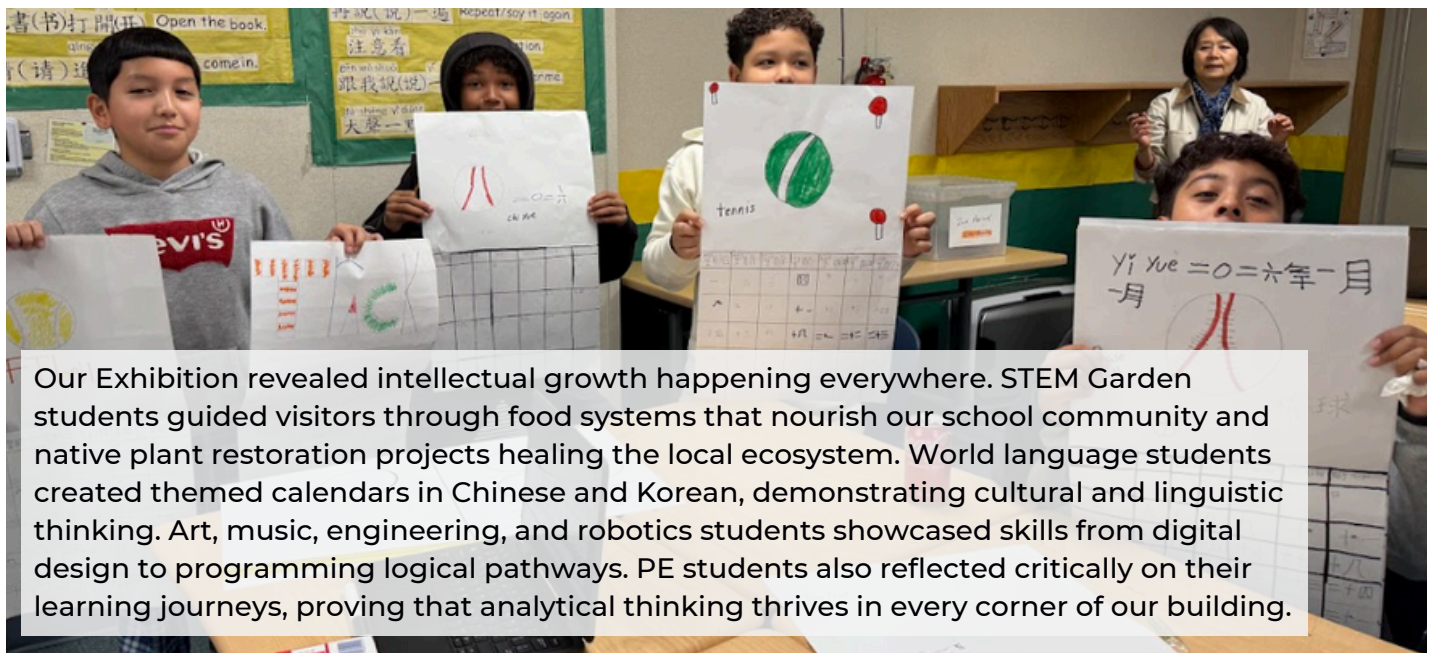
CHANGE AGENTS

Eighth Grade Change Agents used their voices to share untold stories from American history. Through carefully researched podcasts, they ensured the pivotal roles of minorities in the Revolutionary War reach new audiences—demonstrating how unique historical views can reshape understanding. In mathematics, they designed propeller systems for boats. In science, they created energy-efficient apartment plans, applying conservation of thermal energy principles to address real housing challenges in their neighborhoods of Federal Way, WA.



7th grade sovereignty poster

THINKING ACROSS EVERY DOMAIN



Our Exhibition revealed intellectual growth happening everywhere. STEM Garden students guided visitors through food systems that nourish our school community and native plant restoration projects healing the local ecosystem. World language students created themed calendars in Chinese and Korean, demonstrating cultural and linguistic thinking. Art, music, engineering, and robotics students showcased skills from digital design to programming logical pathways. PE students also reflected critically on their learning journeys, proving that analytical thinking thrives in every corner of our building.

ASSESSMENT THAT HONORS THINKING

Exhibition day shows what happens when students know their intellectual work matters beyond test scores. Project-based learning develops not just academic knowledge, but the capacity to think critically about real-world complexities and communicate those insights with confidence and clarity.

This is just the beginning of our students' intellectual journeys this year. As they continue engaging with projects that serve their community, they're developing the thinking skills, knowledge base, and analytical mindset essential for success in high school, college, careers, and citizenship. At TAF@Saghalie, we create daily opportunities for students to think deeply and actively construct their own learning.