

New Haven Unified School District's PERSONALIZATION AND PROJECT BASED LEARNING MONTHLY

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Announcements... Welcome back to school! I am feeling excited to continue our Personalized and Project Based Learning work this year and to be able to support all sites in their implementation of both. We held two PBL 101 trainings this summer, in June and August, as well as NHUSD's first Personalization Summit in June. The energy and rich conversation that drove all events were truly inspiring! **THERE WILL BE AN ADDITIONAL PBL 101 TRAINING IN SEPTEMBER.** See below in "Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities" for details.

GOLD STANDARD PBL FEATURE FOCUS: Knowledge, Understandings, & Success Skills

As we begin planning our first Project Based Learning (PBL) units to implement, I want to focus on what should be at the heart of all of your PBL units throughout the year: Key Knowledge & Understandings & Success Skills. In NHUSD we have also called these the Essential Understandings (derived from CCST



and NGSS), 21st Century Skills, College & and Career Readiness Skills, the 5 C's (creativity, communication, collaboration, critical thinking, cultural competence) etc. Through a good PBL project, students should be able to take key knowledge and understandings and apply them to the real-world, which will better enable our students to internalize the learning. Additionally, when we develop tasks and deliverables that demand skill sets that are required to be



successful in college and career, our students will be more prepared with social, academic, and professional competencies. **IF I FIND MYSELF FEELING LOST DURING A PROJECT, I RETURN TO THE KEY KNOWLEDGE, UNDERSTANDINGS, AND SUCCESS SKILLS TO REGROUND AND FOCUS THE WORK THAT WE ARE DOING.**

Image Credit: <http://goo.gl/cvraqv6>, <http://goo.gl/giNxcw>

by Larmer, Mergendoller, & Boss

PILLARS OF PERSONALIZATION: Education Elements has suggested that there are four core components to Personalized Learning (PL): **INTEGRATED DIGITAL CONTENT, TARGETED INSTRUCTION, DATA DRIVEN DECISIONS, AND STUDENT REFLECTION AND OWNERSHIP** (we will look at each of these more in depth in upcoming newsletters).

A strong PBL project will inherently contain these four core Personalized Learning components. Let's first look at **INTEGRATED DIGITAL CONTENT AND ED-TECH TOOLS.**

Through PL, and with integrated digital content and ed-tech tools, a learner should gain the skill set needed to determine which technology will best support and enhance their learning, be it online text and video resources, presentation applications, or video conferencing with a field expert. The digital content should work alongside the teacher to support student needs and provide "remediation, practice, and extension" - often through feedback, collaboration, and creativity. Depending on where you are at in your personalization journey, this will look different in different classrooms. In one room, you may see a teacher establishing routines for students to use digital tools, while in another, digital tools will be used as an integral part of instruction, and students will know how to identify and use digital content and ed-tech tools to meet their individual needs.



See CHART BELOW FOR A QUICK RESOURCE FOR FIRST STEPS IN INTEGRATING DIGITAL CONTENT ...

Potential First Steps to Implement Integrated Digital Content

ELEMENTARY	SECONDARY
PRACTICE SKILLS - Reserve a set number of minutes for students to use digital tools or apps either daily or weekly.	GAIN INSIGHTS - Ask colleagues for suggestions of digital tools and apps that can help support your students.
STUDENT ACCELERATION/PRACTICE - Make use of various available digital tools or apps to differentiate for students who are prepared to move forward or who need additional practice.	COLLABORATION - Use online tools to promote collaboration and peer feedback of student writing, hypothesizing, projects, etc.
GAIN INSIGHTS - Ask colleagues for suggestions of digital tools and apps that can help support your students.	MODULAR CONTENT - House content online in modular format so that students will be able to work through curriculum at a slightly different pace (i.e. Diigo, Google Classroom, etc.)

Adapted from Personalized Learning, LLC's

The Core Four of

by Barbara Bray & Kathleen McClaskey; Adapted from EdElements

by Scott Johns; Image Credit: <https://goo.gl/A2wuC2>

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT ON...

NHUSD's 1st Personalized Learning Summit!

- ★ 2 days - June 13th & 14th, 2016
- ★ 49 NHUSD Staff Presenters
- ★ 165 Staff Participants
- ★ Endless ideas, networking, growth, and inspiration!



Pictured above: Cathy Hampton and Julianne Hampton, 2016 NHUSD PL Summit

INTERESTING READS AND RESOURCES...

"To be honest, I had not heard the term PBL until the job interview. I went through a week of in-depth training and met with some veteran PBL teachers. The idea sounded great in theory -- creating projects that helped students learn educational concepts..." **READ MORE** @ [Learning by Doing: A Teacher Transitions to PBL](#)

"I am a first grade teacher who has taught for twenty years. When I look at my students and see how much the first grade classroom has changed over time, it is hard for me to imagine what jobs will be out there for them in 15 years. However, what is clear is that there are specific skills -- both academic and interpersonal -- that my students will need to possess to find a successful career..." **READ MORE** @ [An Example of PBL in Early Elementary: How I Started](#)

[The Top Ten Ed-Tech Tools Suggested by Teacher Experts](#)

MAKING CONNECTIONS... As you are working to identify which key knowledge, understandings, and skills to focus on during your project, be sure to make use of your grade/subject area **RCD UNITS**. For each unit you should find identified priority standards and supporting standards, essential understandings, essential questions, pre and post assessments, and more. You can find those **RCD** units [HERE](#).

GROWTH MINDSET CORNER



[4 Ways to Promote Growth Mindset in PBL](#)

Modeling and promoting a Growth Mindset in your classroom is important for PBL success. Some teacher moves that will foster this

are: building a culture of growth mindset; and developing activities and opportunities that include critique, revision, reflection, and sustained inquiry. Specifically how do you do this? Read More @ [BIE.org](#)

Image Credit: <http://goo.gl/btIved>

TAKE IT AND RUN! Apply it now Personalized and Project Based Teaching Resources & Practices...

[A Project-Based Learning Spectrum: 25 Questions to Guide Your PBL Planning](#)

1. What role is the learning assuming?
2. What is their purpose?
3. Who is their audience?
4. How can different learning spaces work together?

Read More @ [TeachThought.com](#)

FOR FURTHER READING - DOCUMENTS REFERENCED IN THIS ISSUE:

Personalized Learning, LLC's _____ by Barbara Bray & Kathleen McClaskey

EdElements - white paper _____ by Scott Johns Download

@<https://goo.gl/TolTyT>

Gold Standard PBL: [Essential Project Design Elements](#)

UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

- 3-Day PBL 101: Tuesday, September 13 - Thursday, September 15, 2016 @ ESC
 - From 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. each day
 - Please Register [HERE](#)
- PBL Follow-up: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 @ Logan Reference Room
 - Open to all who have attend a PBL 101 Training in the past
 - From 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
 - Registration will be sent as the date approaches

CONTACT ME for individual, team, and site coaching and support!

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NHUSD Website: [Personalized Learning](#) and [Project Based Learning](#)