

Digital Portfolio Description

Developed by the Curriculum Committee & Approved by ESBM

Fall 2015

In response to the Public School Choice plan for Valley Academy of Arts & Sciences and in an effort to meet the 2015 WASC recommendations, students will develop yearly and cumulative digital portfolios in order to share academic growth over time, show synthesis of learning, and demonstrate proficiency in creating effective digital media. To this end, Digital Portfolios will take the place of traditional final exams.

To accomplish this:

1. A student technology class will be formed (Ms. Wolfe, Period 1). These students are becoming experts with the technology and the process, and will be available to go to classes to help other students develop their portfolios and to help teachers troubleshoot issues that arise.
2. Initial set-up of the portfolio will take place in Advisory (by October 1st). Addition of student work to the site will happen in Advisory AND in content-area classes so that content-area teachers can also guide students in discussing their projects and their learning.
3. The portfolio sections will mirror the School-wide Learner Outcomes, *The VAASome Way*, with separate sections for each Learner Outcome.
 - Within each of the 4 sections, students will create a page that shows a variety of evidence (photographs, video, audio files, writing, etc.) to illustrate their growth and explain their learning in that particular Learner Outcome. Each Learner Outcome will be further broken down, with separate pages for each of the students' school years (9th-12th grade).
 - Evidence will represent all 8 classes throughout the 4 sections, with a minimum of 4 pieces of evidence (each from a different class) per Learner Outcome. Students will be required to add at least 2 pieces of evidence per Learner Outcome for the Fall Semester, and an additional 2 pieces of evidence per Learner Outcome for the Spring Semester. This will total 16 pieces of evidence, with accompanying reflective writing, each school year.
 - For each entry/artifact, students should reflect on and write about the following questions:
 - Why did you choose this piece of work?
 - How does it relate to the selected School-wide Learner Outcome (SLO)?
 - How did you overcome obstacles in the completion of this work?
 - What would you do differently if you were to re-do the assignment?

- The portfolio will also include a general section written by the student to introduce the reader to the portfolio. This section will allow students to explain choices, add additional reflections, and tie the portfolio together. Students should specifically answer the following questions:
 - What do you know and believe about yourself as a result of your learning?
 - Where have you seen the most growth in yourself?
 - What work makes you the most proud?
 - How does your work this semester/year support your plans for the future?
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- 4. There will be a dedicated week, prior to the Presentation of Learning nights each semester, during which students will engage in "Website Design," much like some schools have a "finals week."
- 5. Students will **formally** share their Digital Portfolios with their parents/families in a Student-Led Conference two times during each school year.
 - At the Fall Presentation of Learning night (*Tuesday, December 8th, 2015*)
 - At the Spring PLBAO night

These presentations will be done through Advisory classes in the evening, and will take the place of the Fall Presentation of Learning we have conducted the last two years that has focused on sharing projects. (*Note: Every student will still be completing Interdisciplinary Projects, but can present them at anytime during the semester, and will most likely include them in their portfolios.*)

Initial set-up and formatting of student portfolios should be completed in Advisory by **October 1, 2015.**

Portfolio Building Jamboree (PBJ Day) will take place on **November 7, 2015.** Ms. Wolfe will schedule tech class students to assist in all Advisories and during other periods throughout the day as needed. Advisory teachers will review 1st drafts of digital portfolios and complete the 2015-16 Digital Portfolio Interim Rubric with their Advisory students.