



Staff Development Newsletter

Kirsten Corprew, SDT

Relationships, Rigor, Relevancy

During our November staff meeting, we delved deeper into the PACE model and Project Based Learning. Various staff members shared some incredible projects they have planned.

Most curriculum guides have some type of project already built in, but if you are looking to expand your students' opportunities to engage in PBL, consider visiting www.pbl-online.org

There, you will find step-by-step instructions for creating a PBL opportunity

for your students. Project Based Learning can take many different formats from a two day undertaking, to a year long process. Do what works for you and your students, keeping in mind that this is a *format* for delivering the instruction you are already giving. This format can increase student buy-in, provide an opportunity for deeper understanding, and give you more time to meet with individual students.

Consider the five components of planning PBL:

- 1) Begin with the end in mind
- 2) Craft the driving question (Here is where the PACE model can first be applied)
- 3) Plan the assessment
- 4) Map the project
- 5) Manage the process



We will continue to explore PBL at our December 3 staff meeting.

Grading and Reporting

Congratulations! We made it through the first marking period with our new grading system!

Here is an important reminder as we head into Q2:

Review with students and parents our grade calculation method: Raw Score Conversion to Percent. This means that the points earned

on an assignment are converted to a percent in the gradebook. Therefore, all assignments within the same category count equally. If you would like to give an assignment a weight within a category, you are able to do this, but be sure to communicate it clearly to students and indicate it in the assignment description.

We will be further discussing our grade calculation method and templates in future meetings.

Please do not hesitate to contact Lissa, Meghan, or Kirsten with any questions.

On November 13, the LPMS School Improvement Plan will be undergoing a Peer Review during our Enhanced School Improvement Meeting.

This means that a team of central office staff will analyze our SIP according to the 8 state requirements. This is required for schools that are in year one of School Improvement.

During the meeting, the Instructional Leadership Team will present our three goals in light of the requirements and answer questions from the peer reviewers.

Did You Know???

- Jordana Ashe ran the Marine Corp marathon? This was her fourth marathon, and she qualified for the Boston marathon!
- Janice Eisenberg participated in a National Orienteering Competition? She placed 5th! Look out Outdoor Education!
- Mark Craemer and Stephanie Sharon earned National Board Certification? WAHOO!!

