A District’s Journey in Project-Based Learning

The Story of Discovery High School & Odyssey Middle School
Introducing...

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WELCOME TO CAMAS

Caring, Quality and Growth
About the District

The mission of the Camas School District is to provide students with the ability to communicate effectively, use technology, reason, be self-confident, possess mental and physical health and work effectively with others. In broader terms, our mission is to create a learning community where students, staff and citizens are involved jointly in the advancement of knowledge and personal growth.

- 7,200+ students
- 1,000+ employees
- 6 elementary schools
- 3 middle schools
- 3 high schools
High School Reflection
Why Project-Based Learning?

● 40 percent of people in the U.S. work as contract employees, moving from one project to another. By 2025, this is expected to grow to 60 percent.
● Almost all work, even in traditional companies, is organized by projects.
● The world has changed a lot in last 100 years, one would think education has also evolved.
Have they?
How about the workplace?
At Discovery High School, we engage with challenging, real-world problems. We interact with content through relevant and meaningful projects while developing collaboration, communication, creativity, and critical thinking skills that launch students into dynamic futures. **We learn for life!**
Timeline

Oct. 2015
Tours
PNW, Tri-Cities, Bay Area

Feb. 2016
Bond Passes!

Spring 2016
Pre-Design
Visioning, Ed Specs, and Eco Charrette

Summer 2016
Training & Prep
Staff training on PBL methodology and curriculum prep

Fall 2016
Odyssey Opens!
New PBL middle school opens

Fall 2018
Discovery Opens!
New PBL high school opens
Creating a PBL Campus

Future Site of Discovery HS

Odyssey MS
Changing the Educational Approach from Workplace to Middle School

The Sharp Building

Student Collaboration
Movable Furniture

Transparency

Places to Get Messy
Process
Tours
Guiding Principles

- Personalized learning that’s engaging, active, and inspiring
- Students and teachers collaboratively design learning
- Flexible and adaptable
- Contribution to community
Five Areas of Opportunity

- Research
- Food
- Fitness
- Production
- Presentation
Deeper Dive Project Wall
Result: A Learning Continuum
PEDAGOGY DRIVES DESIGN
SPACES SUPPORT STUDENT BEHAVIOR

ENGAGE

HUB
Center of Culture and Community
Flexible Assembly Space for Entire School

FLEX EXHIBITION
Flexible Presentation and fitness

R+D PODS
Flexible Core Learning Spaces
Four suites (two stacked at each end)
150 students per suite

CONNECT

DISCOVER

R+D COMMONS
Two Research Commons for 300 Students
Connected to each R+D Pod
Direct Access to the Outdoors.

FAB LAB
Central Fabrication Space for all 600 students

FLEXIBILITY
Variety of Spaces
Flexibility of Use
Readily Adaptable
HUB
FLEXIBLE ASSEMBLY SPACE FOR ENTIRE SCHOOL

Activities/Characteristics

- Heart of the school
- Center of culture and community
- Open and centrally located
- Flexible seat stair
- Formal lecture or “hangout”
- Performance or lounging
- Gathering or leaving
- Eating or sleeping
FLEX EXHIBIT
FLEXIBLE PRESENTATION & FITNESS

Activities/Characteristics

- Adaptable exhibition space
- Open, closed, active, or quiet
- Gymnasium or fitness studio
- Curated gallery or music room
- Stage or backdrop
- Performance or lecture
R & D PODS
FLEXIBLE CORE LEARNING SPACES

Activities/Characteristics

- Heart of the Collaborative Project based Learning
- Open, closed, active, or focused
- Team studios
- Classrooms
- Project Labs
- Science Labs
- Think Tanks
R & D COMMONS
FLEXIBLE CORE LEARNING SPACES

Activities/Characteristics

- Two Research Commons for 300 Students
- Connected to each R+D Pod
- Open, closed, active, or focused
- Direct Access to the Outdoors
- Collaborative
- Technology Infused
FAB LAB
CENTRALLY LOCATED FABRICATION SPACE

Activities/Characteristics

- Managed & Supervised by Specialists
- Fabrication area
- Industrial equipment
- Digital control room
- Digital lab
- Tools exchange
- Outdoor Fabrication area
- Direct Access to the Outdoors
- Collaborative
- Technology Infused
- Transparent
FLEXIBILITY
ADAPTABLE SPACES

Activities/Characteristics

- Variety of Spaces
- Flexibility of Use
- Readily Adaptable
- Strategic Infrastructure Location
The R+D Pods are designed to provide grade level organizational agility. Programmatic elements are strategically stacked and mirrored to allow the building to be zoned by grade level either vertically across two floors, or horizontally across a single floor.
OUTDOOR LEARNING

Covered outdoor learning areas allow for a connection to nature and a variety of learning environments.
What Else Makes Odyssey & Discovery Unique?

- Students taught by teaching teams
- Teaching teams have autonomy to use time flexibly
- Passion projects
- Standards-based-learning
- Collaboration and communication
- We want students to be EPIC - Entrepreneurs, Producers, Innovators, and Contributors
Example: 9th Grade LEAP Project

The Problem

The farming population is aging; the average age of farmers in the world is 60. The population demographic is increasing and changing - we need to increase our production of food by 70% by 2050 to nourish the world’s population. Simultaneously, agricultural productivity is stalling; and young people do not always see a lucrative future in agriculture but prefer to seek employment in urban areas.
Example: 9th Grade LEAP Project

The Challenge

The objective of this project is to design and build a new technology for resource-poor youth to help increase the productivity and profitability of vegetable production.

What you create should be exciting and inspiring so that young people see the benefit and opportunity in working in the agricultural sector.
Example: 9th Grade LEAP Project
Student and Parent Voice
THANK YOU!