Connections – The Facility to Curriculum Relationship

Carol S. Cash, EdD
Clinical Associate Professor & Program Leader
Educational Leadership, Virginia Tech
Why is this personal?
Wake County Public Schools

- Sycamore Creek Elementary School – Year Round
- Durant Road Middle School – Year Round
- Plug for quickly building the new one that feeds the elementary
- I’m famous at Sycamore Creek
Overview

What is the curriculum?
What are the instructional strategies?
How do the spaces look that support those strategies?
The guiding mission of the North Carolina State Board of Education is that every public school student will graduate from high school globally competitive for work and postsecondary education and prepared for life in the 21st century. To that end, the North Carolina State Board of education adopted policy to bring the infusion of 21st century skills to scale across the state.
International education is the way to prepare a **globally competent workforce**. It is about preparing students — pre-kindergarten through college — to be citizens, workers and leaders in the global age of the 21\textsuperscript{st} century.

Preparing Students for the World:
Final Report of the State Board of Education’s
Task Force on Global Education
2013 North Carolina State Board of Education

We aren’t preparing students for a global tomorrow; North Carolina is global today.

Pilot programs won’t cut it. Preparing globally competent graduates requires a comprehensive approach.

To prepare our students for the world, we need to prepare their teachers.
North Carolina was once a leader in language learning. It’s time to return to the pole position.

Schools need peers and partners to move this agenda.

If it’s not sustainable, it’s not a strategy.
So What are 21st Century Skills?
21st Century Skills: Student Outcomes

- Life and career skills
- Learning and innovation skills
  - Critical thinking
  - Communication
  - Collaboration
  - Creativity
- Information, media, and technology skills
- Core subjects – 3 Rs and 21st century themes

Life and Career Skills

- Adapt to change
- Be flexible
- Manage goals, time, & projects
- Work independently, positively, & ethically
- Be self-directed learners
- Interact effectively with others
- Work effectively in diverse teams
- Produce & be accountable for results
- Multi-task
- Participate actively & professionally
- Collaborate & cooperate
Learning and Innovation Skills

- Think creatively
- Work creatively with others
- Implement innovations
- Reason effectively
- Use systems thinking
- Make judgments & decisions
- Solve problems
- Communicate clearly
- Collaborate with others
Information, Media, and Technology Skills

- Access & evaluate information
- Use and manage information
- Analyze media
- Create media products
- Apply technology effectively
Core Subjects – 3 Rs and 21st Century Themes

- English
- World languages
- Arts
- Mathematics
- Economics
- Science
- Geography, history, government and civics
- Global awareness
- Financial, economic, business, & entrepreneurial literacy
- Civic literacy
- Health literacy
- Environmental literacy
How Does One Teach 21st Century Skills?
Consider problem-based learning –
Grounded in content knowledge
Multidisciplinary
Real-world, relevant
Creative
Collaborative
Solution-based
Incorporate global awareness
- Access beyond the school walls
- Communication with other cultures

Provide teacher support –
- Professional development
- Professional modeling of collaboration, creativity, and community
- Time and space for collaboration
Brain Friendly Strategies

- The brain grows through problem solving
  - Projects
  - Problem-based learning
- Students need to discuss or explain information to make it their own
  - Collaboration
  - Social connection, relationship
- Music alters brain chemistry
- Movement reinforces learning
Brain Friendly Strategies

- Emotion drives attention & affects learning
- Group interaction / Relationships
- Humor

The person who is doing the work is the person who is learning

Presentations: Students take ownership of their learning, use multiple modalities, and teach others (medical model: learn, do, teach)

Collaboration
So how should 21st Century Learning Environments Look?
What’s Wrong with this Picture?
Table Talk

Discuss types of spaces that can support the instructional strategies needed for 21st century skills

Share
Thoughts to consider

Does the school need a dedicated cafeteria?

Does the school need a dedicated library?

Does the school need a traditional classroom?

In what kinds of spaces can students do what?
So What Kind of Furnishings Work Best in This Environment?
Table Talk

Discuss types of furnishings that can support students and teachers for a 21st century environment.

How will they fit in the spaces you have identified?

Share
Challenges and Anticipated Changes

“Doing School” when weather closes schools

On-line learning coursework is already required in several states

Second language development and global conversations

Limited funds and different funding source will continue for maintenance

Year-round school

Early College Programs

STEM/STEAM
Characteristics of Educational Specifications

- They are the responsibility of the educators.
- They should be based on a predetermined educational program.
- They should state the educators' concept of facility and program needs and leave methods of satisfying the needs to the design professionals.
- They should be free of rigid prescriptions. They are concise and to the point.
- They are best developed through the involvement of educators, and community representatives.

http://www.schoolclearinghouse.org/pubs/EDSPECS.PDF
Website References

21st Century Skills Framework

25 Brain Friendly Strategies

Nation’s First Bookless public library system opens

The 30 Most Amazing High School Campuses in the World
http://www.besteducationdegrees.com/most-amazing-high-school-campuses/

Silvis Northeast Junior High School, East Moline, IL