Sparking Student Learning Through The Creative Use Of Time And Space

Learning Studios and Summer Academies
Introductions

Rick Anthony- Physical Education Teacher

- BS Sports Medicine, Keene State College, 1987
- MA Sports Management, American Public University, 2015
- 30 years Teaching
- 22 years at Pittsfield

Chris Davitt- Middle School English Teacher

- BA English, Keene State College, 2008
- 8 years Teaching
- 5 years at Pittsfield
Pittsfield Middle High School Demographics

Location- Pittsfield, New Hampshire (Merrimack County)

Town Population- 4,200

School Population- Middle School-91 High School -162
Learning Studios
Pittsfield Middle High School: Learning Studios

● NCTAF Conference in 2011: National Commission on Teaching and America's Future
  ○ Interdisciplinary
  ○ Project Based
  ○ Community
  ○ Exhibition

● Middle School Interdisciplinary Project, Spring 2012

● Learning Studios Development at PMHS

● Time and Space
  ○ Flexible Schedule Team: Spring 2013
Making Learning Studios Fit PMHS

- Student Engagement
- Rigor
- Investigation
- Collaborative Partnerships (between students and local professionals)
- Interdisciplinary Work
- Teams of Teachers (across the curriculum)
- Project-based Learning
- Benefit to the Community
- Exhibition of Learning
- Students are Driving Force
Selling Learning Studios to the School Community

- **How did we get teachers to buy into teaching a Learning Studio?**
  - Presentation to the staff.
  - Eleven proposals submitted to the principal on the last day of school

- **How did we get the School Board to approve Learning Studios?**
  - School Board Presentation
  - Learning Studios would be offered in subjects that teachers and students are passionate about.
  - There are a variety of opportunities in school and community for Learning Studios.
  - Students have the opportunity to create their own Learning Studio.
Student Personalization

- Small student to teacher ratio
- Students in collaboration with teachers are encouraged to develop their own Learning Studios based on their interest and expertise.
  - Hip-Hop Dance
  - Engineer-it
  - Sports Management and Finance
- Students are the driving force of the Learning Studio.
- Learning Studio Selection
  - Students get to choose their Learning Studios from a list of choices.
Implementation

1st year Highlights:

- Middle school - 2 hours
- Mt. Rushmore of Sports/ PMHS Athletic Hall of Fame
- Exhibition

2nd Year Highlights:

- Learning Studio - 12:45-1:45
- Enrichment/ Credit
- Students created their own Learning Studios

3rd Year Highlights

- Learning Studios include students from 7th-12th grade
- Mid-Year Showcase
Products

● Learning Studio Exhibition

● End of The Year Showcase
  ○ Change in Schedule

● Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
  ○ Seeing a Learning Studio come to fruition
Shared Leadership

Students:

- Finding an area or subject that they are interested in
- Create their own Learning Studios
- Collaborating with teachers

Teachers:

- Collaboration with students or other teachers
- Offering the Learning Studios for Credit/Enrichment
- Participating in an area outside of their comfort zone
Making Learning Studios Work at Your School

- What is important to your school?
- Where does this fit into your schedule?
- How can you “sell” this to your school community?
Summer Academies
Summer Academy

- **History**
  - Information originated from a conference
  - Team of teachers visited high schools in upstate New York

- **Funding**
  - Private Donations
  - District Funds
  - Grant Funds

- **Design Team**
  - Community Partners
  - Anywhere/ Anytime Learning
  - Program that would make students excited
Shared Leadership

- Design and implementation of Summer Academies
  - Faculty
  - Administration
  - Community Members
Program Set-Up

- Administrator
- Template
- Competitive Processes
Community Involvement

- Camp Graylag
- Local Experts
- Community members donated materials
Implementation

● 1st Year
  ○ Three Summer Academies offered
  ○ 30+ students participated

● 2nd Year
  ○ Three Summer Academies offered
Student Personalization

2015 Summer Academies:

● Create Your Own Summer Adventure In Pittsfield

● Behind The Scenes

● Environmental Leadership
Products

- Mini Showcases
Reflection/ Review

- Student/ Parent/ Staff

- Program Review
Making Summer Academies Work At Your School

- What programs are already offered during the summer?
- Is there a need for Summer Academies?
- How can you “sell” this to your school community?