Can You Show What You Know?

One School’s Approach to Proficiency-Based Learning
Agenda

I. Introductions
II. What is Proficiency-Based Learning (PBL)?
III. “Chalk talk”
IV. PBL at Big Picture South Burlington
V. Applying for Proficiencies
VI. Proficiency-Based Learning Transcript
VII. Exit Card
Introductions

Presenters
Anna Finklestein - Advisor
Jim Shields - Advisor
Amelia Payne - Student
Ella Downey - Student
Shelby Reposa - Student
What is Proficiency-Based Learning?
Our Definition:
Demonstrating mastery of skills in a way that works for the learner
Chalk Talk
About Big Picture South Burlington
APPRENTICING
Power Assessment: Apprenticing Portfolio

Distribution Requirements:
- Designing Solutions/Major Projects
- Multi-faceted learning through sustained engagement with experts in a field
Ella’s Internship at the Wellness Collective
COMMUNICATION
Power Assessment: Major Research Paper

Distribution Requirements:
- Speak so Others Can Understand
- Read with Understanding
- Convey Ideas in Writing
- Listen Actively
- Thoughtfully Produce and Consume Media (art, music, ads...)
- Communicate Information using Mathematical and Scientific Tools
- Express Oneself Creatively
- Evaluate and Articulate perspectives, ideas, and values
Shelby’s Communication Project

http://prezi.com/rd1crdclxlglg/communicating-with-preschoolers/
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT
Power Assessment: Gateway Exhibition

Distribution Requirements:
- Practice Healthy Personal Habits
- Take Responsibility for Learning
- Reflect and Evaluate
- Set and Meet Goals
- Make Responsible Decisions
- Financial Literacy
- Realistically assess strengths and weaknesses with a disciplined path towards improvement
What is the Gateway Exhibition?

A forty-minute presentation of learning with required elements.

A high-stakes assessment evaluated by a panel of teachers and peers using a rubric.

Students to respond to three major questions...
**Question:** How are you managing your learning?

**Gateway Component:** Review of Learning Plans
Question: How are you engaging with and learning in the world?

Gateway Component: Teach a Skill you learned at your internship
**Question:** How are you preparing for your own personal idea of success?

**Gateway Component:** Reflection on the 8 Non-Cognitive Variables
The Non-cognitive Variables

1. Positive Self Concept
2. Realistic Self-Appraisal
3. Skilled at Navigating Systems
4. Preference for Long-Range Goals over Short-Term Needs
5. Availability of a Strong Support Person
6. Successful Leadership Experience
7. Demonstrated Community Service and Involvement
8. Knowledge Acquired in or about a Field

Adapted from the work of William Sedlacek
CIVIC & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
Power Assessment: Service Thesis Project

Distribution Requirements:
- Collaborate with others to resolve issues and negotiate
- Participate in and contribute to a diverse community using cross-cultural skill
- Demonstrate Historical Understanding
- Projects showing capability of and responsible for addressing complex real-world problems that matter to them and their community.
"Don’t ask what the world needs. Instead, ask what makes you come alive. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."

http://artwithapurpose.tumblr.com/
REASONING & PROBLEM SOLVING
Power Assessment:
Science Experiment & Journal Article

Distribution Requirements:
- Reason using Algebra, Geometry, and Statistics
- Learn Through Research
- Solve Complex Problems
- Apply scientific method to research and experiment
- Other Projects that show ability to challenge assumptions, gather evidence, and consider multiple perspectives.
LEARNING THE LANGUAGES

- Codecademy course
- Codeavengers webdev level 1 and 2 course
- Googling how to do things
- Trial and error

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>WebDev Level 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>WebDev Level 2</td>
<td>97%</td>
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THE WEBSITE

PROFICIENCIES I’M TRYING TO MEET

- Learn Through Research
- Solve Complex Problems
- Read with Understanding
- Thoughtfully Produce and Consume Media (art, music, ads etc)
- Express Oneself Creatively
- Evaluate and Articulate perspectives, ideas, and values
- Take Responsibility for Learning
- Set and Meet Goals
- Projects showing capability of and responsible for addressing complex real-world problems that matter to them and their community.
- Convey Ideas in Writing
Applying for Proficiencies
How do students apply for proficiency?

Because projects vary in length and complexity, there are no standardized “due dates.”

Big Picture students tell their advisor when they are ready for assessment by “applying for proficiency.”

I created this [form](#) in Google forms to streamline the application
The PBL Transcript
Q & A
Exit Card

"I used to think... and now I think..."