



What We've Learned

Reflecting on our first PLP year... and looking ahead.

THEN	BECAUSE	NOW
<p>When we started...</p> <p>We overemphasized Focus Areas, playlists, and content assessments</p> <p>Students needed more support: assistance with the platform, guidance with goal setting, and encouragement than we extended.</p> <p>Teachers needed more support, too.</p> <p>Students spent too much time consuming from the screen.</p> <p>The platform felt overwhelming.</p>	<p>Postponing change was not an option...</p> <p>We almost lost sight that Project Based Learning (PBL) is our highest priority — ideally, 70% of a student's time and achievement.</p> <p>We sometimes failed to personalize the "personalized learning" and sometimes that felt like "teachers weren't teaching."</p> <p>We expected teachers to lead the learning with their colleagues as well as students.</p> <p>We lost opportunities to use tech for production, not just consumption. We forgot the power of handwritten notes, flashcards, paper copies, and print books.</p> <p>We lacked expertise to effectively orient others and experience to describe to the engineers what improvements needed to be made.</p>	<p>We are moving forward...</p> <p>By modifying daily schedule and providing students and teachers with time to design, prioritize, and deliver PBL.</p> <p>By deploying additional teachers and dedicating 30 minutes in each student's schedule for mentoring time that includes community building and 1:1 advising.</p> <p>By participating with ongoing opportunities for collaboration and Professional Development—including regional convenings, and daily collaboration.</p> <p>By providing students with more powerful laptops and utilizing in conjunction with traditional low-tech, high effect tools and study techniques.</p> <p>We shared our input from students, families and teachers with Summit. Summit made up-grades Fairview suggested, such as weekly goals visible upon login.</p>

Despite the challenges, Warriors finished strong. Year one brought increased achievement on state tests and course completion rates and grades for ELA, Grades 6 and 9 and Math courses, Grades 6 through Algebra 1.

Year Two, Look for...

- Even higher achievement and progress!
- Continuous improvements to the PLP and its use
- New electives and advanced courses at middle and high school
- Continuing opportunities for tutoring support, before and after school
- Quarterly exhibitions when families and community can view student work, culminating with the Innovation Challenge
- Gallup perception survey for Grades 6-12
- Improvements in Junior Experience and Senior Exit Interviews
- Mentoring, Grades 6-11
- Independent study choices in STEAM, Studio Art and Digital Media
- Redesigned opportunities for family PLP orientation and tech support
- Many more opportunities to learn differently, care deeply, and experience the JOY of Learning.