



Digital Learning Initiative

Carousel Planning Questions, Ideas, Concerns

April 2015

Changes / Transition / Big Picture

- What does all this mean for District 181?
- How does this initiative support the Learning for All Plan?
- What small changes can be implemented in the near future (Tech)?
- Need to prioritize the planned steps and overall plan with all stakeholders.
- The plan must be strategic.
- How do we continue to educate our children NOW while we strategize for change?
- How do you implement change without hurting the Guinea Pig group?
- What practices need to be modified for today's learners?
- How do we know we aren't throwing out the baby with the bath water?
- How do we bring independence back?
- How do you create an environment for students and teachers where it's safe to make mistakes and learn from them?
- Where is the balance?
- Time to develop - where to start?
- How can we make schedule, space and groupings more flexible?

Curriculum / Standards

- With Common Core, how can we make room for additional elements?
- What curriculum changes are needed in the district?
- What is the role of Common Core in digital learning?
- How do we move beyond standards-based education?
- What are the standards of higher education going to be?
- Application of standards are confining
- Do we understand the scope and sequence across grade levels toward building creative and complex skills needed?
- How do we balance short life skills with long life skills?
- How can we balance our students learning between creativity and fundamental skills?
- Stem, Steam, tech, programming...how to fit in?
- How do we modify our curriculum to include more - group projects, collaboration (effective), problem solving, persuasion, etc.?
- How do we infuse problem solving teamwork, interpersonal skills within the core curriculum?
- Keyboarding skills are important.
- Intro to coding class is needed by middle school, for all students
- Need to offer more electives in the "Creative" learning spectrum
- How do we maximize engagement in learning by capturing students' passions?
- Need to teach the students how to effectively collaborate with peers in group projects.
- Teaching how to give and receive constructive feedback in order to: collaborate, be a life-long learner, problem solve
- What kind of foundation do you need to do higher order thinking?
- How do we create the balance between foundational knowledge and high order thinking skills?

Instruction / Professional Development

- How do we encourage teachers to continually grow and change?
- Need to prioritize training for teachers to teach new skills.
- How do we reward excellent teaching?
- How do we get teachers to embrace digital tools with all that is in the curriculum?
- How to disseminate best practice?
- How do we change homework to embrace (this)?
- How do we handle misuse and overexposure of technology?
- How can we balance traditional, rote teaching with creative, innovative teaching?
- How as facilitators, can we become good role models for the digital learner?
- How will we engage the students who are now in the "video game" instant gratification phase?
- Do we need to challenge students to learn in their non-preferred way?
- How do we create independent learners? When do you let them be independent? Allowing to fail safely.
- We need lesson plans that present the new skills with the Common Core standards.
- Present a problem to groups of students throughout the year (weekly basis?) and have them present to class.
- How do we expect students to be creative if teachers are not allowed to be?

Assessment / Measurement

- How can we minimize standardized testing?
- How do we handle all the time spent on mandatory testing?
- Do the assessments match the 21st century needs? Ex: MAP, PARCC
- If we don't use standardized tests, how will we show that we are producing at a high level, and show growth?
- What is the role of PARCC in digital learning?
- What is the desired outcome? (For: ES, MS and HS)
- How will we define success?
- Where is the data and pilot project?

Communication / Community Engagement

- How do we start the conversation with parents (181)?
- How do we engage more parents and market/share the need for change?
- How do we give people a common vocabulary/set of concepts to communicate well and at the same time encourage development of individual sets?
- How do we engage the community in this dialogue to support these shifts?
- What are the fears the community has?
- How do we get the perspective of the 20-something's who have been through our system?
- Involve the community from the beginning?

Facilities

- How do we better utilize existing learning spaces?
- How can we make classrooms more comfortable?
- How can we make schedule, space and groupings more flexible?

Misc

- What part does memorizing play in brain development?
- How to abolish agrarian educational calendar?
- What does a student who is a team player look like?
- What are trends and best practices in other countries?
- How do we build the struggle in?
- Problem based (inquiry) learning?
- Over scheduling of students outside of school interferes with learning
- Play is essential for creativity
- Increased workload on teachers and students