



The Lion's Roar

McKinley Monthly Newsletter

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McKinley a Deep Learning School

Global Citizenship Service Learning Projects

An Introduction by Dr. Benjamin

“Good at learning and good at life- Deep Learning tackles both academic learning and connectedness, generating citizens with strong moral imperatives individually and collectively.”

At Back to School Nights, I shared about our new Deep Learning Grade Level Global Citizenship Service Learning Projects. If you missed the presentation, here is an introduction to the innovative learning that will be occurring at McKinley this year!

Deep Learning is spearheaded by two famous education researchers and authors, Michael Fullan and Joanne Quinn. This past summer, McKinley was invited to be part of the first ever California Deep Learning Cohort; we are honored to be 1 of 40 schools in the entire state of California selected. Over the summer 10 teachers, the AP, and myself went to a 2 day training about Deep Learning. While not all the teachers could attend the initial 2 day training, Deep Learning is something that all teachers will be participating in.

Deep Learning is basically a learning experience that helps students be good at academics AND be good at life. We already do Deep Learning at McKinley with things like our shared reading, pillars of character, community meetings, blended learning, CGI, and academic discourse. However, global citizenship was an area we wanted to deepen. We want to teach students to think outside of themselves to make a difference in the community and the world.

With grade level service learning projects, students are going to be given a real world global problem or issue, and will be asked to work together to help solve it. They're going to be practicing all their academic skills (reading, writing, doing math, science, and social studies) while also learning how to be global citizens and good people. They will learn how to contribute to the common good, address global challenges, and how to flourish in turbulent and complex times. We're helping them to become problem solvers we are going to need in the future.



Deep Learning experiences are engaging, relevant, authentic and build the 6 Global Competencies (6 Cs).

McKinley will design grade level Deep Learning “service Learning projects” focused on the “global citizenship” aspect. The projects will:

- *Foster Deep Learning so that all students can learn to contribute to the common good, address global challenges, and flourish in turbulent and complex times.*
- *Develop “Global Citizens” who develop as academic learners and positive humans.*
- *Allow teachers an opportunity to utilize their creativity and knowledge in a fun, innovative, and collaborative way.*

Project Outcomes

The result of these projects will be that students develop these 6 global competencies which will help them to be successful in life and successful in academics. With this Deep Learning project we go beyond just teaching academics to teaching the whole child. It's our school philosophy and all our teaching strategies in a project.

The 6 Global Competencies (6 C's)



Creativity
Communication
Citizenship
Critical Thinking
Character
Collaboration

- ✓ Students will develop their listening and speaking skills (supports our school site focus of Academic Discourse).
- ✓ Students will develop their academic skills in multiple subject areas (ties into Math, Reading, Writing, Science, Social Studies, Social Justice standards etc.)(continuing to close the achievement gap!)
- ✓ Students will develop their social-emotional skills.
- ✓ Students will develop their global citizenship skills- compassion, identity, impact on others etc.
- ✓ Students will be engaged in school and learning.
- ✓ Through increased rigor, real-world connections, and cross-curriculum connections students will be challenged to use higher level thinking skills and 21st century skills.
- ✓ School-wide strategies (Thinking Maps, sentence frames, responsive classroom etc.) will be applied, so learning and understanding of concepts will be deepened.

Project Design

The projects will have four aspects.

1. Our Pedagogical Practices: Inquiry, blended learning, hands-on experiences, scaffolding, cooperative learning, Thinking Maps, Academic Discourse and more.
2. Leveraging Digital: Students don't just use technology, they apply it as a means to learn becoming digital citizens and using social media in a positive way, making podcasts, virtual simulations, animation and more.
3. Learning Partnerships: Students will have a chance to learn about others' perspectives and collaborate with class buddies, local organizations, global organizations, and schools across the world.
4. Learning Environments: Learning will happen in a variety of environments such as in the classroom, with flexible seating, in other classrooms, in the garden, on a field trip, in another place digitally and more.

All four of these components will be used to help students solve a real world problem or issue in a topic like environment, animals, health, education, human welfare, and cultural and societal issues.



Tentative Grade Level Service Learning Project Themes

TK/K- Students will focus on **kindness** and will connect to the school, community, and world through shared literature, visiting community helpers, creating cards for a local senior home, reading to shelter dogs and more.

1st Grade- Students will research **sea animals** and see how they can help protect the **environment** and sea animals from pollution/trash.

2nd Grade- Students will deepen their understanding of the role bees play in the environment and their impact on the community. Students will use their voice to create awareness about the **plight of bees** and take action.

3rd Grade- Students will partner with UNICEF to help **refugees** in different parts of the world.

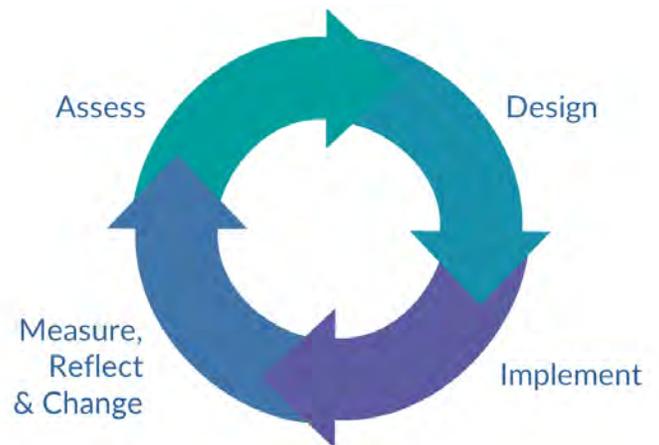
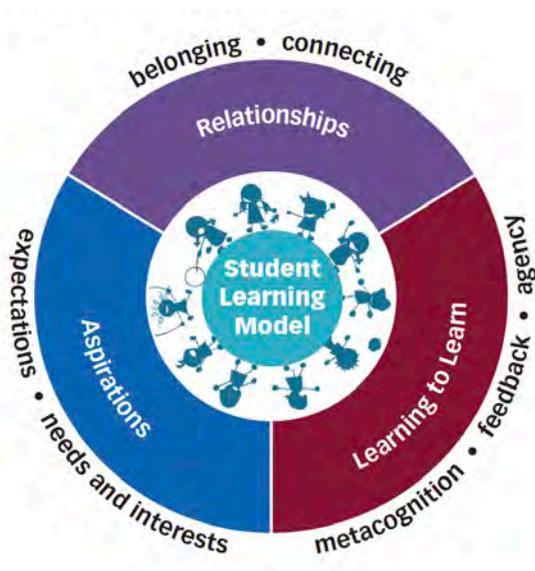
4th Grade- Students will learn about how they can support **students with disabilities** and how to promote inclusion.

5th Grade- Students will determine ways to help the **homeless**.

These are the exciting initial brainstorms by the teachers as they are just getting started with project design and implementation. The inquiry projects are flexible and will tie into students' interests so will grow and change over the course of the year.

We're very excited about these projects and about being a school who takes the lead in doing innovative practices!

At the end of the year we plan to share these projects with parents and the community at Open House and/or special event(s). Info to come!



What's Been Happening at McKinley this Month!



The first ever **Back to School Adult Night Out** was a huge success! Food, dancing, karaoke, raffle, and auction. We exceeded our fundraising expectations and raised \$10,000 for our students! Thanks to the volunteers who put this fun night together and everyone who came out and donated!



McKinley was selected to be one of 4 schools in the district to be on the **Furniture Steering Committee**. Our 1st grade teachers will select, tryout, and provide feedback on the new furniture to be purchased for the whole district!



Our annual **Back to School Picnic** was a blast! Music, relaxing, BBQ, and fun!



Our first **Fire Drill and Shelter-in-Place Drill** occurred. Students learned about all our emergency procedures so they can feel safe and know what to do in case of an emergency.



The Go Green Live Clean **BMX Show** schoolwide assembly wowed and thrilled students and staff alike!



During recess students made posters about protecting the earth during the **Global Climate Strike** day.

Parents met their child's teacher and heard all about the learning and events in store for the year at **Back to School Nights!** We also had **Volunteer Trainings** and **Principal Presentation.**



Our first ever **Spanish Book Club** with our Literacy Coach began. Staff and parents get to practice speaking Spanish during discussion of a fascinating book. Also our first **ELAC meeting** for parents of English Learners was fun and informative!



Our first **schoolwide assembly** of the year! Students presented about **PRIDE**.



Our first **PTA meeting** and **Room Parent meeting** occurred. Thank you to our many wonderful volunteers this school year!



Our **Wednesday Game Room** opened for the year, so students have a quiet and collaborative option during lunch recess.



Students who participated in the **Summer Flip Out for Reading Challenge** had a celebratory breakfast.



Students heard **special presentations** from Special Ed Specialists to learn about different technology and needs students may have so they can be supportive of their peers with special needs.



Our **counselors** toured the school. We are the only SMMUSD elementary school to have a partnership with Insight Psychotherapy group for affordable on campus counseling, in addition to having FSSM counselors.



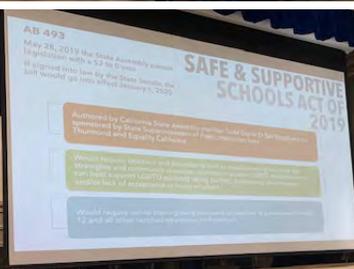
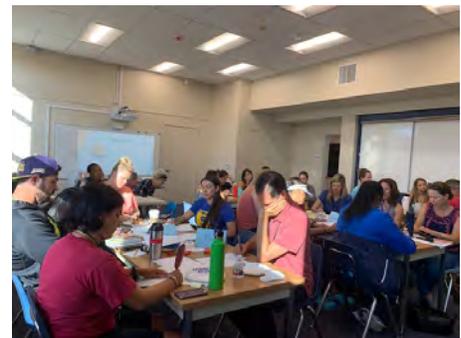
All students participated in **Behavior Expectations (Rules) Assemblies** led by Admin. Our students did a great job knowing the why and benefits behind our PBIS plan.



Students and parents got to know each other at the **TK and K Meet and Greets**.



Our first day of school **Info Fair/Orientation** hosted numerous school and local organizations who shared info with parents.



Staff has been doing **Professional Development**. All faculty had a chance to learn about how to promote a gender inclusive school and safe space for LGBTQIA students with a presentation from PRISM Institute. We also have learned about Deep Learning and the Second Step Social Skills Curriculum.

Students jumped right into **learning**. Community/Morning Meetings, Mindfulness circles, STEM experiences all built community and relationships with new classes.



Want to know when all these things happen in real time!?

Follow us on Twitter @McKinleyLions

where Dr. Benjamin posts updates on all the wonderful things happening each day at McKinley.

If you don't have twitter you can view our twitter feed on our school website.