



AMS PBL Academy

Endless Possibilities for Learning

Consider...

"Let us take a hard look at our national obsession with tests and scores and grades, and let us think more generously about what kinds of people we want our schools to develop,.."

-Mike Rose, University of California Research Professor

Is Your Child...

- ▶ Interested in a variety of topics?
- ▶ A high-achiever - someone who frequently goes above and beyond on requirements?
- ▶ Curious about the world around them?
- ▶ Creative in different ways?
- ▶ Someone with a strong work ethic and the ability to work well with others?
- ▶ Self-motivated?
- ▶ In need of enrichment?

If so, then this might be the program for them!

What is PBL?

[Project Based Learning Explained - Edutopia](#)



What It Looks Like



ELA, HEALTH/PE

Grades K-12

Healthy Choices = Long Life

How can our school best support our overall health and wellness?



ELA

Grades 6-8

Stand By or Stand Up

What should we do about cyberbullying?



FINE ARTS, ELA

Grades K-12

Community Photojournalist

How can we, as photojournalists, tell the untold stories of our community?



ELA, SOCIAL STUDIES

Grades K-12

Waiting on the World to Change

How can we make change happen in our community?



SCIENCE, STEM

Grades K-12

Making Space for Change

How can we redesign a public space to make it more environmentally sustainable?



MATH

Grade 7

Comic Book Algebra

How can we as comic book designers build superhero worlds that teach others about math?

The “What”

The AMS PBL Academy is a school-within-a-school focused on PBL - project and problem based learning. Our goal is to teach our key standards through extended projects that involve real-world application or answering complex questions. The focus is on acquiring deep content knowledge along with 21st century skills through inquiry, creativity, and collaboration.

While there is still “regular” instruction in the PBL Academy, our focus will be on learning through PBL projects. In PBL, the projects are not “dessert”; instead, they are the main course. PBL projects have the following essential project design elements:

- Challenging Problem or Question
- Sustained Inquiry
- Authenticity
- Student Voice and Choice
- Reflection
- Critique & Revision
- Public Product



Path of a Project

Phase 1
Launch Project: Entry Event
and Driving Question



Phase 2
Build Knowledge,
Understanding, and Skills to
Answer Driving Question



Phase 3
Develop and Critique Products
and Answers to the Driving
Question



Phase 4
Present Products and Answers
to the Driving Question

Figure 4.1 Projects Versus Project Based Learning

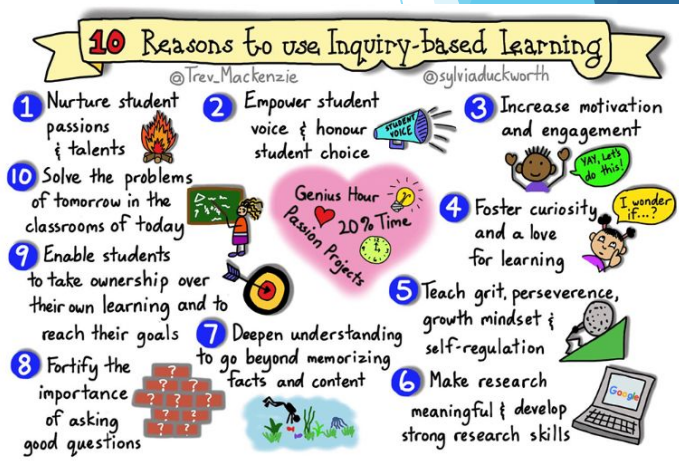
Projects	Project Based Learning
Supplemental to a unit	The project is the unit, or a major vehicle for teaching content standards within a unit
Task is based on following directions from the teacher and is repeated year after year	Task is open-ended and involves student voice and choice; often differs from year to year
Typically done individually	Done in collaboration with a team
Done independently, often at home	Done with teacher guidance, much of it during school hours
Focused on the product; the product may even be called "the project"	The project includes a sustained inquiry process <i>and</i> the creation of a product
Not authentic to the real world or to students' lives	Authentic to the real world or to students' lives, or both

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Note: We are indebted to Amy Mayer, friEdTechnology.com, for some of these ideas.

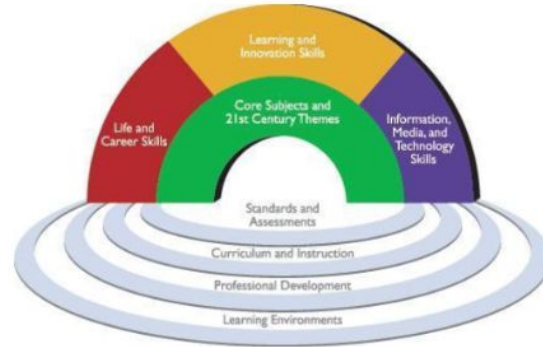
The “Why”

- ▶ Builds skills for college, career and life
- ▶ Engages students through relevance and interest
- ▶ Deepens learning through application
- ▶ Connects students with the community
- ▶ Builds students’ technology skills
- ▶ Authentically assesses students’ abilities
- ▶ Promotes lifelong learning
- ▶ Accommodates varying learning styles



“We are currently preparing students for jobs and technologies that don’t yet exist... in order to solve problems that we don’t even know are problems yet.”

WWW.P21.ORG



Student Criteria

- ▶ Grades - 3.0 G.P.A. or higher
- ▶ Attendance - no more than 5 unexcused absences within the last school year
- ▶ Student has demonstrated enthusiasm for learning by consistently exceeding teacher expectations in their work ethic.
- ▶ Student has consistently demonstrated positive peer relationships and interactions.
- ▶ Student has shown a need for academic enrichment.
- ▶ 5th Grade Teacher / School Recommendation - AMS will contact the personnel to get the recommendation. Please note that recommendation forms are confidential and will not be shared with parents/guardians.
- ▶ Student and Parent/Guardian Commitment form

Schedule

- ▶ Four core courses (Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies).
- ▶ A PBL Academy Elective (work skills, collaboration skills, research skills, conferencing/monitoring, etc.)
- ▶ Two electives - PE (required), Music, Art, Drama, Foreign Language, PLTW.

Extracurriculars

- ▶ We strongly encourage extracurriculars (Robotics, Chess Club, Odyssey of the Mind, Sports, Music, Drama, Art...)



Next Steps

Parents of students who are eligible will receive an invitation with details on the steps that they need to take if they are interested in joining this program. These invitations will be sent out during February 2020. If invited, it is important that you complete the interest form by the deadline.

***Note: We will have a lottery if our number of applications exceeds our capacity.**



Additional Information

If you would like specific examples of what AMS students do in the PBL elective and PBL core courses, then view the “What Are AMS PBL Students Doing?” presentation found on our [PBL Parent Page](#).

In the meantime, if you are looking for more information about PBL, then check out these resources.

Example of Science PBL Project

What is PBL?

Please contact Mrs. Perkins, Instructional Coach, at marsee.perkins@ocps.net if you have additional questions.