



Coach's Corner

April 4, 2016
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Williamsburg Charter High School - 198 Varet St., Brooklyn NY 11206 - 718-782-9830 x2014

Are we forcing kids "to obey rules without an opportunity to question whether they support the way they learn?"
-Christopher Emdin

The Teacher Center

Upcoming Learning Walk

Group Work and Socratic Seminars

April 12th

Open Hours

The Teacher Center open hours for semester 2 will be
Mondays (all day) and
Tuesdays/Thursdays 9th period

Goals into ACTION PLT

Wednesday 3-13

Period 4

Vanessa, Isaac, Dani
a Irina

Period 5

Keith, Jamie, Jenn

Period 6

Thomas, Liz, Katelyn

Period 7

Heather, Daneen

Period 8

Kaari, Bryn, Hank

Due to the learning walk,
Tuesday PLTs will begin
April 10th

21st Century Classrooms: Creative Expression

Opportunities for Creative Expression, give our students the chance to demonstrate their mastery of concepts in a nontraditional way that supports the 21st century need for creating future innovators! In a way, this can be seen as arts enhancement (not to be confused with arts integration, but that's a whole other conversation). This also helps to move from a teacher-directed approach to a student-centered/project-based approach to education. According to author Cathy N. Davison, "65% of today's preschoolers will grow up to work in jobs or pursue careers that don't yet exist." Because we are essentially preparing our students for a world that does not exist yet, students must learn how to imagine the unimaginable and fine tune their creative skills. This is also another chance to get them up and get them engaged. Try building a life-size graph where students are the plotted points, recreate the reign of Mao Tse-tung by having a student take on the role and build a communist society within your classroom, summarize chapters in a novel by creating a "story-woosh", create a water dance, by having students create physical movement that represents each of the stages of the hydrologic cycle. If you want to play with some ideas, just let me know and we can create together!! The quickest and easiest way to infuse creative expression into the classroom is to hand it over to the students. Once you have taught a concept, have the students decide how they would like to demonstrate their mastery. This promotes creativity in two ways, they have to creatively determine their project/assignment, and they have to complete it. Hold them accountable for also creating the rubric by which they wish to be graded. Yes it is a little scary to relinquish control, but you can always say no, so if you feel their proposal needs more work, help them to develop it. This is a huge shift in mindset, so you will be faced with students who express "can't we just take a test?" Don't let them rest on what they have done in the past, push them to become 21st century ready by creatively problem solving!

Channeling the Chaos

Strategy #3 Scavenger Review

Midterms are here, and reviews are a great opportunity to increase student engagement. Much like a scavenger hunt, a scavenger review can be an exciting, engaging, and memorable opportunity for students to review their concepts and solidify their knowledge. Although it will take some serious planning time, the students will benefit from this stimulating review. There are many ways to set up a scavenger review, a quick and easy way is to put "answers" up around the room, with additional "clues" or "questions" on the back. Hand groups of students a question/"clue" that will send them to one of the answers around the room. For questions that have lengthy or multiple answers, they can tell you the answer and you can hand them the next question or a clue as to where to find the next question. You can take this review to the next level, by using multiple rooms or even combining with other classes for full competitions!

Upcoming Strategy

4-Corners