

Update on Project-Based Learning in Our Classrooms:

From teachers learning how to students learning by

*East Rockaway Board of Education
Curriculum Presentation
January 16, 2024*

East Rockaway School District Mission Statement

The East Rockaway School District respects our diverse community and proud traditions by engaging every student in an innovative and challenging educational program which inspires learners to become self-directed, ethical, creative, and globally conscious citizens.

What
Drives
Us?

VALUES AND PRIORITIES

21st Century
Learning

Results Will
Follow

Kids First,
Always

Commitment to
Continuous
Learning

The Power of
Feedback

What is Project-Based Learning?

Students...

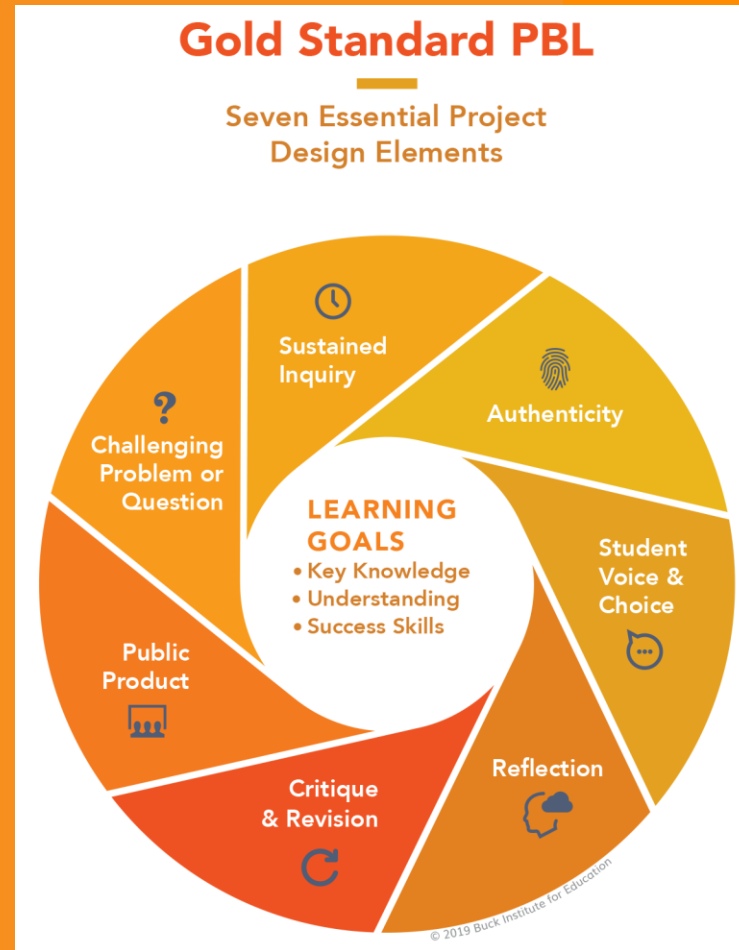
- Gain knowledge & skills working on an extended investigation
- Solve authentic problems & challenges
- Demonstrate their knowledge by developing a public product or presentation
- Build deep content knowledge
- Enhance Essential “Future Ready” Skills including critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity



Gold Standard PBL

7 Essential Project Design Elements

- Research-informed model for improving, calibrating, and assessing practice
- Focus on students acquiring knowledge, understanding, & skills



Gold Standard PBL

7 Project-Based Teaching Practices

- Student-centered model of instruction
- Teacher as facilitator of learning
- Aligns with our Visible Learning practices

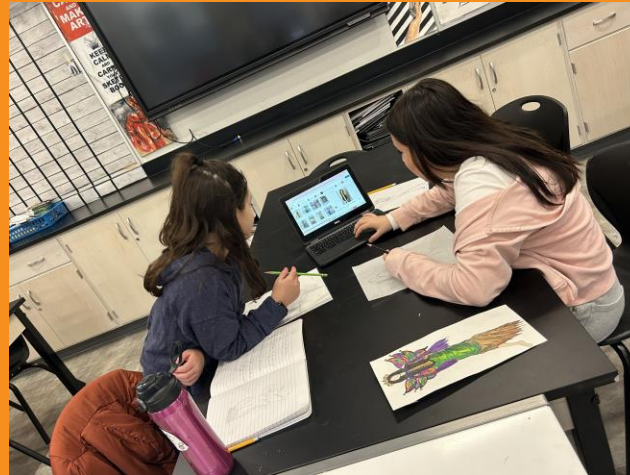


Challenging Problem or Question – Examples from ER

- *How does where you live affect how you live? (grade 5)*
- *How can we, as entrepreneurs, design and create original products to market to consumer? (grade 5)*
- *“History is doomed to repeat itself.” How can America avoid the same fate as the Roman Empire? (grade 9)*
- *How might stories of struggle during the fever outbreak in 1793 help us understand the many challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic? (grade 7)*

Authentic & Expert Sources

- 5th grade students visited HS art, tech, and FACS classrooms and were visited by HS students and outside professionals
- 9th grade students studied primary sources from Roman times and contemporary articles from a broad spectrum of sources



Authentic & Expert Sources



Student Voice & Choice

- Choose their role – architect, fashion designer, or chef
- Choose the product they will develop and sell
- Choose an issue of personal importance to inspire others to act upon using a TED Talk format
- Choose a format of your final product – podcast, digital guidebook, or Google Slides presentation



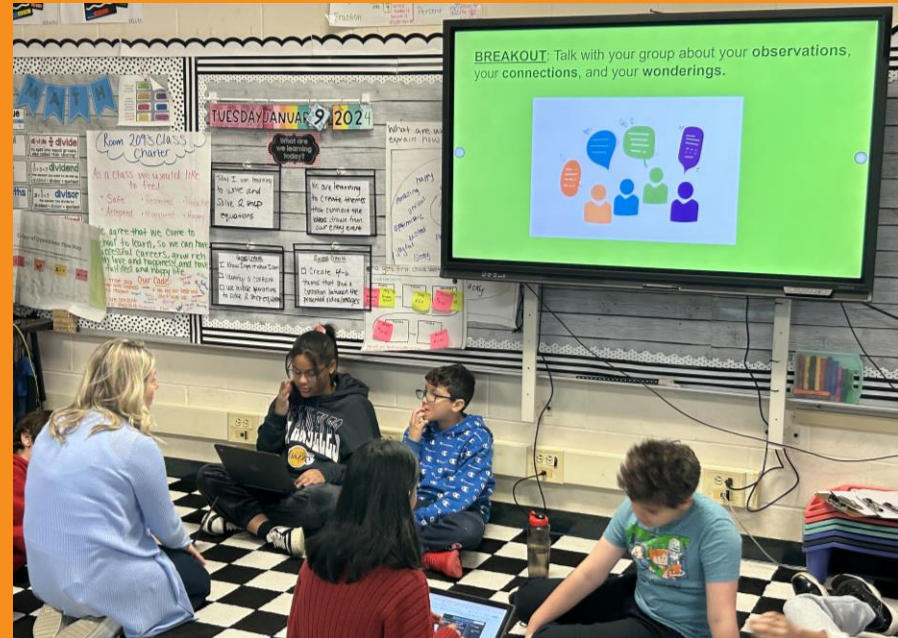
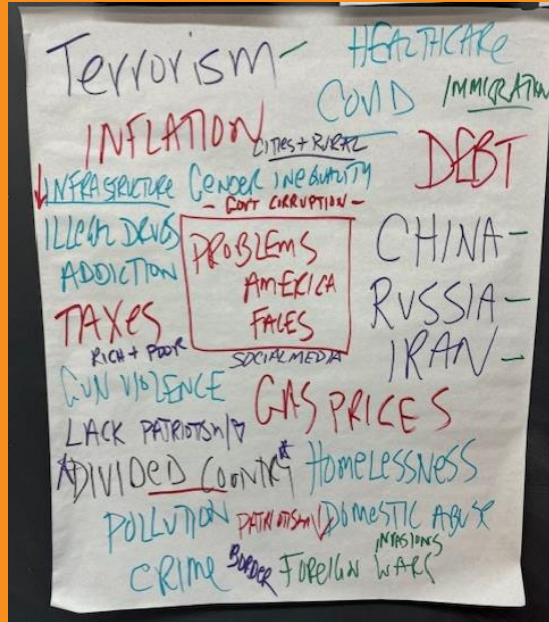
Sustained Inquiry

- Once their driving question is finalized, students embark on a research journey
- They build skills *AND* knowledge as they work on their project



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Public Product / Authentic Audience

- Present to younger students
- Present to Congressman D'Esposito
- Mid-project critique from outside experts



Public Product / Authentic Audience



Public Product / Authentic Audience

Our Recommendations

To enhance America's *Economy*, decrease *Moral Decay & Partisanship* we believe...

- There should be better quality of candidates for President
- Stop Super PACs Government for the people not corporations
- We should budget our foreign aid & or potentially put it on hold
- Every person should have AT LEAST 1 or 2 years of service in the Military by 30 yrs old

SUGGESTIONS

Lack of Patriotism - Something we can do to help become more patriotic is making everyone feel equal, caring for our veterans and people serving and public service this will give people a sense of unity and make us as a country stronger.

Inflation - We need to stop giving money to other countries, if we keep giving money to other places we will go into more debt, get taxed more and get into unnecessary wars.

Infrastructure - Just make Long Island a state at this point because all of the taxes we are paying are going to other places and we don't even have curbs on ocean ave.

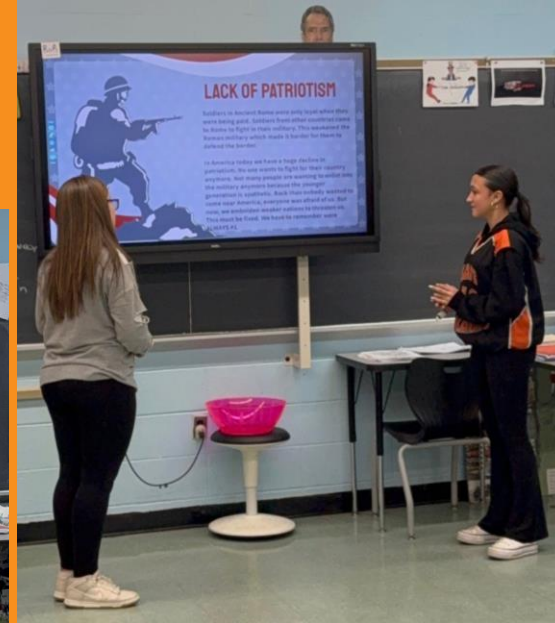
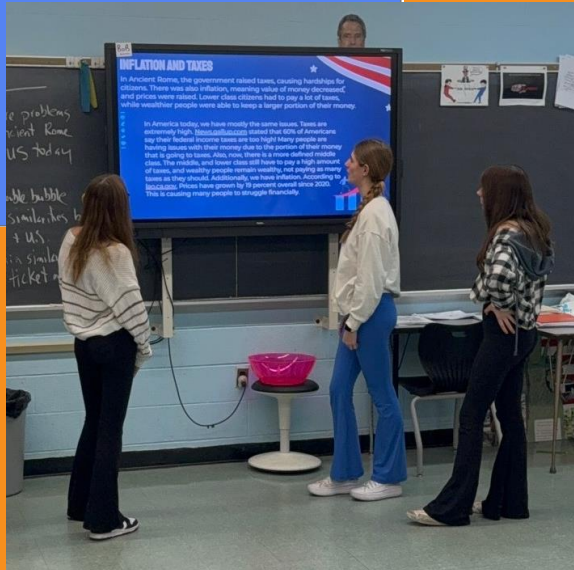
Military - We need to get more Americans involved with the country, if we get people to become more patriotic and feel strongly for our country it will make people want to fight for our country.

Corruption - People that are smarter and feel strongly about this country need to start running for president.

Public Product / Authentic Audience

Our Recommendations For America Today

- **Remind people and enforce the positives that make our country #1**
- **Develop solutions to everyday problems for Americans through multiple media platforms that would apply to the younger generation.**
- **Hold politicians and your own political party accountable when the people's interests don't come first**



What Teachers Say

“I really sparked their interest with our Entry Event- the purpose was to spark interest, questions, and wonderings. The students are currently working in small groups to try to make connections between the images/videos shown to them in order to create possible themes that seem to align to our science fair this year. By leaving a bit of suspense and not outright telling them, “this is what we are doing,” they are more eager and determined to work together and figure out the connections themselves.”

“We feel that PBL takes traditional learning to a new and exciting level. Our students have been extremely invested in this project and cheer whenever the time in our day comes to work on it! We specifically love how we were able to collaborate with so many professionals on the project, so that our students had a variety of learning experiences. Some of our guest speakers included an architect, a chef, and web designer. We had class family members and HS ENL students visit us to share about their experiences and traditions in some of the countries we studied. Watching our students collaborate as a grade to make their projects, and their peers, the best that they can has been wonderful to witness. We have all had so much fun teaching and learning throughout this process and are excited for this new style of teaching to continue!”

“Students collaborated in groups to accomplish tasks connected to the final presentation. This created accountability amongst their peers. The project gave students experience with real world applications including presenting their findings to Congressman Anthony D’Esposito. Students got a chance to engage in a social exchange through ZOOM with a classroom in Milan. Students created inquiry questions about one another's culture and society and engaged in a meaningful conversation. Students applied problem solving skills in order to create solutions for modern day issues in America.”

PBL from a Student's Perspective



The Road Ahead

- All teachers in inaugural training class will implement one unit this year and add a second unit next year
- The next third of our staff will participate in PBL 101 professional development next fall
- All staff will be trained by fall of 2025
- We are positioning East Rockaway ahead of possible graduation requirement shifts that would allow alternative and/or portfolio assessments





Thank you for your attention.

Are there any questions?