

Learning Symphony Tune-Up Session

Customized One-Day Workshop



Learning Symphony is a training methodology based on research and best practices that promote the harmonious combination of learning elements that engage students, and infuse technology into the learning experience. Instead of a one-size-fits-all approach, this program mentors teachers to integrate a comprehensive approach to instruction and customizes projects to their existing curriculum. Learning Symphony provides process and in-classroom support for a sustainable, effective, efficient and scalable approach to raise the level of achievement of students and the quality of the

knowledge, skills and experience of the teacher. It is designed around a unique partnership in which JDL Horizons and District staff work together to provide highly effective project based mentoring. In this model, JDL Horizons consultants both train the teachers in-the-classroom as well as train District staff so that the processes and methodologies learned will continue between mentoring sessions and after the initial classroom student projects are complete.

Overview

Learning Symphony provides the pedagogical retraining of teachers supporting clearly defined instructional objectives with projects for students to direct their own work and take control over their own learning. Horizons trainers mentor teachers to integrate a comprehensive approach to instruction and customize projects to their existing curriculum. Students participate in engaging, multi-faceted investigations and develop an array of multi-disciplinary skills as they collaborate with peers to tackle real-world problems using primary source documents, experiments, models, interviews and surveys. Students make choices about how to demonstrate learning and present their products at the conclusion of the term to parents, teachers and district administrators.



The outcome is truly a celebration of student success.

The one day Learning Symphony readiness workshop is designed to introduce the student experience of project based best practices to a classroom of teachers in a reasonable timeframe and at a reasonable cost. This project based learning experience



is customized to the school or district's specific learning environment. By designing the session around the tools and resources currently in use by the school or available from the district, participating teachers gain the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively use the school's technology and software to promote learning in their own classrooms.

The one-day customized Project Based Learning readiness workshop is designed to give teachers an in-depth orientation to Project Based Learning by providing them with the opportunity to step into the roles of their students and experience the potential of Learning Symphony firsthand.

Teachers involved in this workshop will work in groups to create tangible learning products to present to their fellow "classmates" at the end of the day. Just as the Learning Symphony program has been doing for teachers and their students in districts all over the country, this process will instruct the participating teachers in how to utilize and leverage the technology and information available to them in a manner that is retainable and directly related to their class work.

For more detailed Information, contact
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Session Activities

Up to 32 Teachers will be split into groups of 4 and assigned an Essential Question to answer. Once the questions have been established, each group will discuss



research and analyze their question, using district-provided tools, to determine and produce their group's answer. After the answer has been defined, the group decides upon a presentation format and creates a "Learning Product" that will allow them to communicate their findings and conclusions to the rest of the groups (common presentation formats include Blogs, Wikis, Podcasts, Videos and

Slideshows). These Learning Products are then presented by each group to the others at the end of the Session.

Learning Symphony is founded on best practices

• Classroom Management

Techniques and processes that support taking the teacher out of the front of the classroom and bringing them into closer contact with the learning experience as facilitators. The need for the enforcement of student discipline is reduced as students take control of their own learning.

• Cooperative Learning

By grouping students in small teams, each with students of different levels of ability, a variety of learning activities are implemented to improve their understanding of a subject. Each member of a team is responsible not only for learning the subject matter but also for helping teammates learn, thus creating an atmosphere of achievement. Students work through the essential question until all group members successfully understand, contribute and are able to communicate it.



• Differentiated Learning



All students are different. Based on this knowledge, differentiated instruction applies an approach to teaching and learning so that students have multiple options for taking in information and making sense of and communicating ideas and thoughts. Differentiated instruction is a process to approach teaching and learning for students of differing abilities in the same class. The intent of differentiating instruction is to maximize each student's growth and individual success by meeting each student where he or she is, and assisting in the learning process.

• Inquiry-Based Learning

Starting with an 'essential question' and with the guidance of the mentor, students identify their own issues and questions. They then examine the resources they need to research the topic, thereby acquiring the requisite knowledge. This new knowledge and experience is more highly retained because it has been acquired by experience and in relation to a real problem that the student is engaged in.



It is essential that our students are educated for knowledge creation, lifelong learning and leadership. These skills will enable them to take on leading roles in their future working environments: directing change, asking important questions, solving problems and developing new knowledge.

Orientation on Project Based Learning Summary

- Establish an Essential Question for the group to answer.
- Teacher laptops or desktops used for research on the essential question. How to training is in real time and in context.
- Grouping; 4 to 5 Teacher Students working towards the same essential question.
- Teachers will experience Cooperative Learning using different strengths of colleagues for final product.
- Inquiry Based Learning exercised to reflect research and decisions and answers to the essential question.
- Differentiated Learning; how each student individually shows understanding with final product presentation.
- Engaging thematic activities through collaboration, creativity and decision making.
- Final Activity Product created on the essential question to present at the end of the day.

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