

LEADERSHIP PD PROPOSAL

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## LEADERSHIP PD PROPOSAL.

### Why Project-Based Learning?

“Project-based learning helps students not only make meaning but also make meaning that lasts. Applying what they know causes students to consolidate their understanding, making learning more memorable”. (Krauss & Boss, 2013, p. 19)

Project-based learning is a necessary component of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century classroom. It teaches students skills and allows time for practice. Students are then challenged to apply those skill as they solve real-world problems or challenges. Providing rigor as students prepare for college and or career. Professional development of the pedagogy and the expectancies for curricular activities that should be implemented every week in each grade level in a curriculum our district has; Project Lead the Way, an NGSS and CCSS aligned. It takes on an APB approach; activity, project, and problem-based resource that provides a story with a real-world problem to solve.

This proposal is chosen because it provides the opportunity for a check for implementation and understanding of PLTW. As the lead teacher for PLTW, part of the responsibility is to check for implementation. The professional development will reinforce the need for teachers to integrate all subject areas to become more rigorous for our students. The PD will address the urgency for project-based learning in all curricular areas. Educators will gain an understanding of the need for the unification of all subject areas. Thus, students’ gain a deeper understanding of content while teachers think of innovative ways to connect curricular goals across context areas.

The intended audience will comprise thirteen classroom-teachers (K-5), and any additional support staff members that are wanting to attend. At Minnequa Elementary, our school serves 336 students. The school is a Title 1 school, with approximately 94% of the population being from low-socio-economic households. Teachers in the classroom are responsible for instructing all subject areas. The proposed will be a PD for our building, but open to any member of the

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district to attend. This PD will take place on a Friday in our building; exact date forwarded when scheduled by the administration. The teachers will have access to computers at appropriate times within the PD to explore materials and other supporting web sites with PBL materials and activities.

The pre and post survey will address the definition of project-based learning. It will probe teachers to define the difference between cooperative and collaborative learning. As well as, ask if they can identify the engineering process vs. the scientific process. It will probe to see if teachers have resources to support additional project-based learning in the classroom other than the PLTW course provided for their grade level. Finally, it will probe to see if the teacher can identify that all context areas integrate into a project-based lesson to provide a student artifact of many standards and skills acquired. With this reminder, the expectation is, with resources and support, the educators present, begin with the implementation of the program. A follow-up interview with each grade level team will be scheduled during a PLC to check on successes, supports, and material or resources needed.