project based learning
a new way to learn

Washington Discovery Academy | Innovation Academy @ Riverside | Innovation Academy @ Lincoln | Weidner School of Inquiry @ PHS

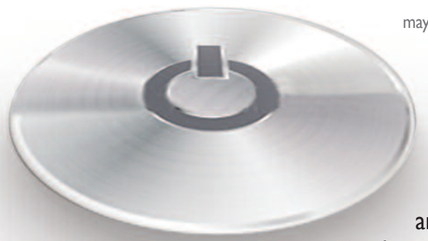
At Plymouth Community School Corporation, we begin preparing our children for a successful future starting in elementary school. That's why we have incorporated Project Based Learning (PBL) into all our grade levels, using some of the resources provided by the Buck Institute of Education and the New Tech Network, organizations that help provide training for schools that implement Project Based Learning.

PBL classrooms teach the same information that traditional classrooms do, only using a different method.

Our PBL curriculum meets Indiana graduation requirements, state testing requirements, and Indiana state standards. However, we've discovered that while some students thrive in a traditional, teacher-led classroom, other students prefer to learn through self-directed, hands-on projects in a collaborative environment.

In fact, our PBL classrooms aren't really classrooms at all, but spaces designed to function like a professional work environment, where teachers are facilitators and students practice 21st Century skills such as teamwork, oral and written communication, acquiring and managing information and using technology.

Integrated classes help students apply skills they're acquiring in one subject to another subject. Students are assessed not only on how well they have mastered the curriculum, but also on how well they have mastered the skills that will equip them for future vocations. Students may also shape the culture of their work space by working with teachers to determine rules, expectations, and project design.



Another way that PBL differs from traditional instruction is that rather than responding to lectures and lessons, PBL students choose the direction of their learning based on facilitator-provided Driving Questions.

These questions focus the students' work, encouraging them to use their skills to explore the subject at hand. Students use the information they gain to create products, start discussions, and even partner with experts in the local workforce, designing projects with beneficial, authentic connections to the community in which they live.

PBL puts learning in the hands of the students, and they rise to the occasion, gaining skills and confidence to help them flourish beyond graduation.

Plymouth Community School CORPORATION

The Plymouth Community School Corporation is located in Plymouth, the crossroads of north central Indiana.

Plymouth hosts various annual cultural and civic events, including our popular performing arts series and Farmer's Market. The Marshall County Blueberry Festival attracts 500,000 people to Plymouth every Labor Day Weekend with food, fun and fireworks.

Along with an outstanding community, Plymouth provides an outstanding educational experience. The Plymouth Community School Corporation offers traditional classroom instruction as well as Project Based Learning for all grade levels, with a mission to equip students for success beyond graduation.

If you are looking for excellent education in a community that cares, call us now to schedule your campus tour. Contact us via phone at 574-936-3115 or visit our website.

PCSC

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Plymouth is Indiana's Education Destination

project based learning

Plymouth Community School CORPORATION

Washington Discovery Academy

Elementary students take their first steps on the road to personal growth at WDA. Teachers introduce PBL by creating meaningful learning experiences that allow students to explore their interests and take ownership of their learning.

K-4

Think

PBL projects always begin with a Driving Question that is relevant to students' learning and their lives. They learn to ask questions and evaluate the resources available to them.

Act

At Washington, all learners are engaged in a 1:1 computing environment in which everyone has a device. This technology provides students with tools for investigating, discovering, designing creative projects and developing their literacy skills.

Grow

With PBL, students have more "voice and choice." Teachers act as facilitators, using new media tools and Internet resources to bring interactive, engaging learning and fresh perspectives to the classroom.

Go

Washington students work in groups, enabling them to practice communication and collaboration skills with peers and community partners. For example, students will work with Earthworks, a local environmental education center, to plant a garden and market their produce.

Innovation Academy @ Riverside

We kindle 5th-6th grade students' curiosity through PBL. Students collaborate on projects that answer Driving Questions, develop students' problem-solving skills and show them how to use technology to connect globally.

5-6

Create

PBL sets students' creativity free. Working individually or in groups, in spaces designed for collaboration, they imagine solutions to authentic problems and share their work multi-dimensionally with new tech tools and media.

Influence

Our teachers do more than instruct—they also listen, guide and encourage students as they pursue their projects, helping them learn skills such as organization and time management. We expect our students to embody trust, respect and responsibility, and teachers model those qualities as they act as coaches, facilitators and leaders.

Connect

Students use technology across curricula to access expert audiences, places and resources right from their classrooms. For example, a group of students acting as meteorologists created a project that blended weather, geography, storytelling and communication skills.

Expand

Students take their learning and stretch it into new shapes, using their projects to demonstrate principles, experiment with outcomes, and apply what they know. In the post-high-school world, their employers will value their ability to translate ideas into action.

Innovation Academy @ Lincoln

Here, students in both PBL classrooms and traditional can choose electives such as Family and Consumer Science, SOLE, Project Lead the Way and performing/visual arts classes, as well as extracurricular activities from sports to robotics!

7-8

Imagine

With PBL, Driving Questions don't always have one right answer. By designing projects, students use their imaginations to conceive a variety of solutions that they can share with each other and in community forums.

Impact

PBL teachers act as facilitators, leaders and mentors, listening to and guiding students as they model professional behavior.

Network

Our students use technology to connect with local leaders as well as global experts. For example, one team of students developed a project that combined the discovery of America with discovering new insights about their own community, insights that they shared in the form of an advertising campaign with local officials.

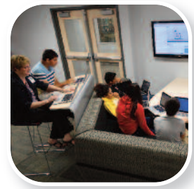
Integrate

We integrate PBL and traditional learning, so students can take academic courses in traditional settings if they wish. Students can also take Algebra, Geometry and Integrated Chemistry/Physics for high school credit in either a PBL and or traditional classroom. Mandarin Chinese is available for high school credit, but only in a traditional classroom setting.

Weidner School of Inquiry @ PHS

At the Weidner School of Inquiry (WSOI), we help students practice the skills they need for rewarding futures. They can even take dual credit courses for college credit while still in high school.

9-12



Explore

Weidner School of Inquiry students are equipped to use new forms of media and technology. For instance, in addition to a written research paper, a student might present his information through a video or website he has scripted and produced himself.

Apply

With PBL, students are presented with new knowledge and concepts through Driving Questions and then given opportunities to apply them through a project or presentation—creating an authentic context and a reason to learn the information and concepts.

Engage

Working as teams in spaces designed for interaction, students learn the value of collaboration, critical thinking, and communication—competencies often known as "21st century skills" because they are prerequisite for success in the 21st century workplace.

Inspire

Students take their work outside school walls to interact with professionals and community leaders. For instance, in a project that combined history and government classes, students participated with business leaders and government officials to create their own government, with the goal of building a deeper understanding of democracy.

Discover the difference

at Washington Discovery Academy Contact: (574) 936-4072

Envision the Future

at The Innovation Academy @ Riverside Contact: (574) 936-3787

Tomorrow Takes Shape

at The Innovation Academy @ Lincoln Contact: (574) 936-3113

Find Successful Futures

at Weidner School of Inquiry @ PHS Contact: (574) 914-4849

Washington DISCOVERY ACADEMY

Innovation Academy @ RIVERSIDE

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Weidner SCHOOL OF Inquiry @ PHS