



PBL  
SKILL

### Collaboration

**Collaboration is the act of working together for a common goal.** The Partnership for 21st Century Skills says that mastering collaboration skills requires the ability to work effectively with diverse teams. It also requires the ability to "be helpful and make necessary compromises to accomplish a common goal."

Time for productive collaboration is a must in today's classrooms. A study on cooperative learning found that "subjects who worked cooperatively spent more time working on practice exercises and reported greater satisfaction than those who worked individually."

- "Studies have shown that groups outperform individuals on learning tasks, and further that individuals who work in groups do better on later individuals assignments as well (Barron, 2000b, 2003; O'Donnell & Danserau, 1992)." Powerful Learning by Linda Darling-Hammond, page 19.
- Having the capacity to collaborate is an important component in project-based learning and an essential personal and professional skill.

Working effectively with others is an extremely complex endeavor. **Collaboration skills are complicated to learn because they are actually people skills.** Learning these skills takes guided practice and quality feedback. Teacher's shouldn't expect their students to work together effectively without explicitly teaching and modeling collaboration skills. These skills include:

- Active listening
- Respect
- Manners
- Positive Attitude
- Focused
- Social Awareness

Simply telling students to work together won't lead to productive collaboration. Teachers need to develop activities and projects where students have reasons to collaborate. We must teach students how to be good group members through modeling, role playing, discussion, and facilitating.



#### Skype Education

Teachers can find lessons and find other classes and experts to Skype with. For fun, search Twitter for #mysteryskype.

#### Lino

Create a collaborative canvas where others can add colorful sticky notes with Lino.

#### Tricider

Tricider lets you collect ideas and vote.

#### Flask

Create collaborative checklists with Flask.

#### Stoodle

Create multipage collaborative whiteboards with Stoodle. You can type, draw, and import images.

<http://learninginhand.com/collaboration/>

### Chromebooks for PBL

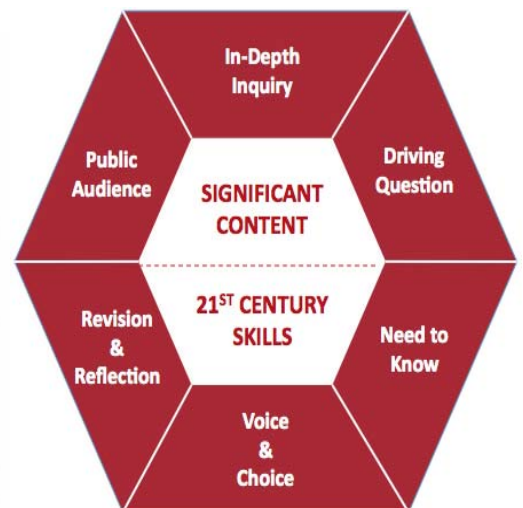
WHS has a cart of 30 Chromebooks to be used for PBL lessons. These laptops will be stored in the SDT Office and can be signed out by Ms. Gerhardt. There are a few guidelines that we will follow:

- These computers can only be used by teachers who are doing a PBL lesson.
- There is an Outlook calendar (WHS PBL Cart Calendar) to see when it is available.
- Email Lisa to sign up to use the cart.

**PBL Calendar Teachers:** As you plan your units, please email Lisa Gerhardt when you will be implementing PBL into your classes so they can be placed on the Outlook calendar. To view the calendar, add the "PBL Calendar".



Problem-solving scenarios help make the content stick.





(Teacher Edition)

### Would You Rather...

- A student spill a bottle of glue in your hair
- A student spills a gallon container of rainbow glitter on the floor?
  
- Go the whole season of standardized testing without sugar?
- Go the whole first three months of the school year without coffee, tea or any caffeine?



### Create fun structured conversations.

Give the whole class a sentence stem that they have to fill in themselves, and then make them go find at least 10 different partners to practice it with. The repetition of both speaking and listening will help cement it in their brains, and the not-sitting-in-their-chairs will make it fun.

- "One thing I will remember to tell my future grandchildren about differential equations is \_\_\_\_\_"
- "I shall uphold the honor of my English teacher, Ms./Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ and never mix up 'you're' and 'your.' I will remember the difference by \_\_\_\_\_."
- "I'm going to go straight home and tell everyone on Facebook how the most important thing I learned about cells is \_\_\_\_\_."
- "If I made a modern-day movie about the Shakespeare play we read today, I would cast \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_ because they are both \_\_\_\_\_."



Planning on using Google classroom this year? Need a quick info page to edit and give to your students?

Here is the link to the Google docs handout----go to "File" and "Make a copy" to save a version to your Google drive. This way so you can edit the doc for your classroom. You do need to be signed into your Google account to edit it:

<https://docs.google.com/a/mcpsmd.net/document/d/1NZ7yYfMAXwqLFWLWbHI9kJbmKpQJAKMnWQKG7XYgCFw/e/dit?usp=sharing>

--Thanks to Sarah Forman for this tip!