

5 PRINCIPLES OF Personalized Learning



IN THE WEST SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT, PERSONALIZED LEARNING SHOULD:

1 Have flexible learning & teaching environments

- Classroom furniture can be rearranged for different lessons
- Technology is available when the instruction calls for it
- Students can learn any time, anywhere, and in different ways

2 Be individualized

- Learning is mastery-based
- Lessons are designed with student input
- Students have multiple means of demonstrating knowledge

3 Be student-centered

- Students have a say in what they learn and the courses they choose
- Teacher acts as facilitator
- We educate the child as a whole (mental, emotional, physical)

4 Use 21st century skills

- Real world opportunities to learn; interdisciplinary classes
- Project-based, authentic assessments
- Communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity

5 Include relationship building

- Understanding what drives the student's interest
- Helping the student choose how to present evidence of their own learning

BENEFITS

- Teachers have more one-on-one time with students.
- Teachers are trained to use technology to enhance their teaching, not to replace it.
- Students have more opportunities to go "deeper", learning more about subjects that interest them.
- Students are taught to have persistence, to rely more on themselves, and to "fail forward".
- Instruction is tailored to students' strengths and interest to keep them more engaged in their learning
- Diplomas represent that a graduate is prepared with the knowledge and skills to succeed after graduation, giving employers confidence.
- Students have input into the types of projects and activities that help them learn best increasing their interest and motivation.
- Teachers help students develop ownership of their learning

TIMELINE

- 2016-17 School Year: Planning and training of new teachers
- 2017-18 School Year: First team of about 20 teachers implement new ideas in their classrooms
- 2018-19 School Year: Second team of about 80 teachers join the first team, new furniture is purchased
- 2019-20 School Year: Approximately 200 additional teachers will be trained
- 2020 and Beyond: Continuing support for teachers and staff