



Engaged students
High levels of achievement
Quality teaching

Learning Guide

Project Week: St. Francis of Assisi Academy, Slave Lake, AB Grades 7-12

This video illustrates one school's approach to implementing a school wide Project Week from Grades 7-12.

- 0:00-2:48 Introductions to Project Week, Purpose, Meeting Learner Outcomes and Benefits
- 2:48-5:10 Organization of Project Week, Timelines, Mini-Lessons:
- 5:10-7:18 Planning for Alternative Projects, Perspectives of Students
- 7:18-11:47 Benefits of Project Week, Benefits for Students and Staff

We invite you to use this conversation guide along with this video to engage in a dialogue about innovative high school practice.

Consider using this video with staff to drive conversations around instructional practice.

Moving Forward with High School Redesign is about more than simply shifting a timetable. It's about shifting mindsets. The shift in mindset to a focus on student-centered learning happens as a number of key practices are put in place, including personalizing learning, intentionally developing meaningful relationships, creating rigorous and relevant learning opportunities, and supporting mastery learning. Schools that are focused on innovative, collaborative, comprehensive, and meaningful learning opportunities, are showing evidence of increasing student engagement and success.

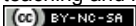
Key understandings:

- Intentional focus on instruction design serves to foster relationships, student engagement, and independence.
- There is a solid link between the foundational principles of Personalization and Rigorous and Relevant Curriculum.
- Student growth and learning is enhanced when staff work and collaborate together to enhance their own professional practice.
- Identification of natural cross-curricular linkages can result in authentic learning opportunities for students.

Questions for Discussion:

- How does a focus on staff collaboration create a culture of learning within a school?
- What collaborative structures would be necessary to facilitate this type of instructional approach?
- Project Week offers a different approach for students to experience program outcomes. What are some of the benefits for students with this instructional approach? What competencies would they have opportunities to develop?
- The students in the film speak to the skills developed through their experiences in Project Week, including research skills, leadership, problem solving, teamwork, resilience, risk-taking, creativity, innovation, confidence and collaboration. How do these skills increase opportunities for success after high school?
- How might the quote "Project Week brings out all the tools in their [teacher's] toolboxes" serve to shift instruction on a daily basis?

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