

Middle School Project Based Learning ITP - Accepting Responses

Invitation To Participate™
Alignment Nashville Middle School Committee
Middle School Project Based Learning:
Community-Based Projects



Date of Release: October 22, 2013

Respond on-line by: ongoing throughout the 2013-14 school year
JOIN US for a community meeting on **Tuesday, November 5, at 9:00am** in the **Alignment Nashville Conference Room**

PBL Partners

The Alignment Nashville Middle School Committee is seeking “PBL Partners” to support Project Based Learning (PBL) in 5 pilot MNPS Middle Preps. PBL is a key MNPS learning strategy that supports the Common Core Learning Standards.

PBL Partners will support 2 projects per year in each of the five selected pilot schools. The PBL projects will be designed by the pilot schools and then matched with PBL Partners that support the project in a variety of ways, both during and after school.

The five pilot Middle Schools are:

- Litton Middle
- John Early Middle
- Wright Middle
- Bailey Middle
- Thurgood Marshall Middle

What is Project Based Learning?

Project Based Learning (PBL) is an instructional technique that guides students through an extended process of inquiry in response to a complex question, problem and or challenge. While allowing for some degree of student “voice and choice,” rigorous projects are carefully planned, managed and assessed to help students learn key academic content, practice 21st Century Skills (such as collaboration, communication & critical thinking), and create high-quality, authentic products & presentations.

Through this pilot, PBL Partners will help students:

- explore and investigate a complex issue
- collaborate with business and community partners and peers
- explore information by contacting the experts and looking for information outside the textbook
- discover connectedness with the community, high schools, world beyond, etc.

For more about PBL, please visit the Buck Institute for Education website at www.bie.org.

What will PBL Partners do?

PBL Partners can help in any or all of the following ways:

- Provide advice and guidance to teachers and school staff on the proposed project
- Offer hands-on experiences or field trips for students that are pertinent to their project
- Mentoring/advising for students as they complete the project
- Review and provide feedback to teachers and/or students
- Be an audience for student presentations

What are the expected outcomes?

Through this pilot, the Alignment Nashville Middle School Committee hopes to contribute to the following outcomes:

LONG TERM:

- Increase high school graduation rates
- Increase college readiness
- Increase career readiness

MID TERM:

- 30% Increase in community partnerships to support **Project Based Learning**

SHORT TERM:

- 30% increase in understanding of **Project Based Learning** among community partners

How can my organization become a PBL Partner?

Step 1: Organizations interested in becoming a PBL Partner are asked to respond to this ITP (link below).

The Alignment Nashville Middle School Committee will review these responses and compile a list of potential PBL Partners for participating schools.

Step 2: Pilot schools will use the list of ITP responses provided by the Middle School Committee to contact potential PBL Partners for their projects.

Step 3: PBL Partners and pilot school teachers/school staff will meet to develop scope of partnership activities and timeline.

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