

What is Project Based Learning (PBL)?

Project Based Learning is a dynamic instructional model in which students actively explore real-world problems and challenges, acquiring deep knowledge and understanding through creative problem solving, critical thinking, and meaningful collaboration.

Example One:

Taught by their English and history teachers teaming together, students learn what it means to be resilient - to be strong in the face of challenges. They read stories and study resilient heroes in the American Civil Rights Movement. Then they find members of their community to interview - people who showed strength during challenges in their lives. Finally, students A) write spoken word poetry, B) produce a song, C) produce a short film/PSA/commercial, D) create an art piece, or E) create an original game demonstrating how they can be resilient in their own lives.

They then perform/exhibit at a community celebration, which they have planned. In addition to learning history, reading, and writing, these students are building skills in communicating with others, working in teams, and organizing a successful event.



Example Two:

In their science class, students partner with a nonprofit organization working in Haiti to design and build A) solar ovens, B) rain catchment systems, C) high-yield micro-gardens, D) energy-producing windmills, or E) self-contained emergency shelters, using simple, low-cost materials. They develop various designs for their project, share them with professional engineers for feedback, and then improve upon them. Finally, they write reports, perform and document experiments to test their designs, and “pitch” their project ideas in a presentation to the engineers.

The designs are also sent to the nonprofit organization for consideration and further revision. In addition to learning math and science, these students are building skills in “design thinking”, working in teams, problem-solving, making a presentation, and creativity and innovation.

EXCITING

When school is exciting, students learn better, attendance goes up, graduation rates go up, violence goes down and school becomes fun!

PRACTICAL

Colleges and technical schools want students with the same kind of skills employers want. PBL delivers those skills!

BENEFICIAL

With PBL, students learn more deeply and remember what they learn because they USE their knowledge and skills immediately.



49%

THE FACTS:

49% of American high school students say they are *bored in at least one class every day*.



17%

Another 17% say they are *bored in every class every day*.

– High School Survey of Student Engagement,

Project Based Learning is coming to Cheltenham in the 2017-18 school year!

A limited number of spaces are available in the 9th and 10th grade PBL pilots.

To determine if PBL is right for your student:

1. Sign up online for your student to attend an interactive PBL workshop on Friday 11/11 at CHS. Go to cheltenham.org/PBL

**2. Attend a parent information night on Friday 11/18 @ CHS.
Register at: cheltenham.org/PBL.
Free babysitting and pizza dinner provided.**

3. Questions? E-mail PBL@cheltenham.org

PBL Benefits ALL STUDENTS because they:

- Do challenging and meaningful work
- Explore their own interests and share their talents
- See how learning connects to real life
- Build skills in critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and creativity/innovation
- Learn how to manage time well, work independently, and meet deadlines (project management skills)
- Have improved learning because student motivation is increased
- Have a better attitude toward school and learning
- Understand concepts better and their ability to apply knowledge in real-life situations improves
- Learn how to work in high-performing teams
- Feel that they can make a difference in the world
- Are exposed to the world of work and career interests
- Experience a lowering of the achievement gap due to improved engagement.
- Learn from teachers who show increased job satisfaction due to PBL

