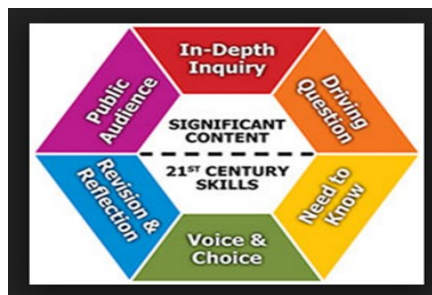# K– 4 Work Group

The K –4 Work Group has been meeting regularly this school year to plan for exciting changes in the elementary program. The focus areas are curriculum integration and project-based learning, professional communication and collaboration, and family and home partnerships.

Additionally, the group has been making plans for integration of technology in our elementary classrooms and the use of technology to provide a world language experience for our students.

K– 4 Work Group Recommendations
Project Learning

♦ Develop rubrics for assessment of student work that include cross curricular standards
♦ Provide an opportunity to share the finished project in school wide celebration
♦ Establish a timeline and expected PBL outcomes for the 17-18 school year
♦ Establish K-4 action teams in each building to support the professional development, planning and implementation and evaluation of the projects
♦ Develop standards aligned projects that are cross curricular, rigorous, inquiry based and make real world connections
♦ Ensure that student voice and choice is integral to the projects
♦ Include age appropriate collaborative, communication skills, and critical thinking skills

K– 4 Work Group Recommendations Professional Development
Technology

Provide professional development on the use and management of chrome books and strategies to integrate technology in the curriculum including:
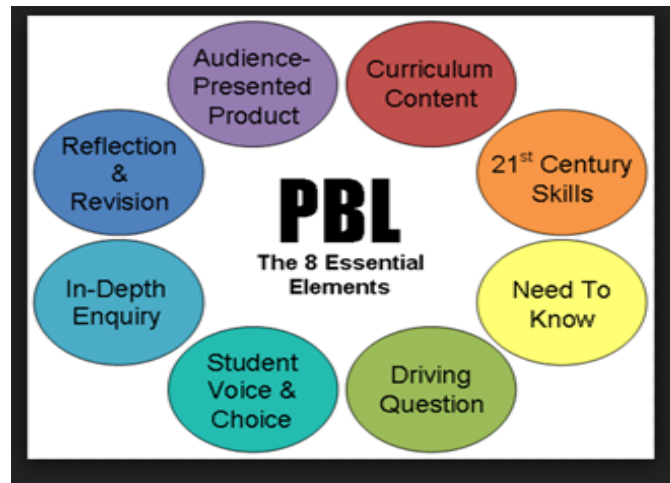
♦ How to develop a lesson using technology to support student collaboration
♦ How to develop a lesson using technology to personalized instruction
♦ How to develop a lesson using technology to differentiate during small group instruction
♦ How to use and navigate Google Classroom

K– 4 Work Group Recommendations Professional Development
Project Based Learning

Provide professional development designed to support the following outcomes:
♦ Describe and discuss the 8 essential elements of project-based learning
♦ Design, manage and assess PA Core Standards projects based learning projects
♦ Develop and integrate the 8 essential elements into a well-constructed project based learning lesson plan
♦ Use performance assessments (rubrics, planning forms, activities and readings) to evaluate

Up-date: Building leave teams have been formed and Professional Development is on going

One of the major advantages of project based work is that it makes school more like real life. It's an in-depth investigation of a real-world topic worthy of children's attention and effort."
-Education researcher Sylvia Chard

K– 4 Work Group Recommendations
Communication and Professional Collaboration
Family and School Partnerships

♦ Develop technology based systems to facilitate communication among teachers (Blogging, Google Docs)
♦ Plan opportunities to support implementation of K-4 initiatives including parent university on standards based grading and professional development for teachers on assessment strategies for standards based grading
♦ Plan for grade level collaboration throughout the school year
♦ Establish a second student led parent conference at the end of the second marking period
♦ Develop a plan to facilitate family and school partnerships through-out the year. Possible delivery models could include: monthly parent workshops, online resources, video newsletters to parents
♦ It is important to note that parents express an interest in continuing to provide materials such as report cards, newsletter and school notices in hard copy format

Top 10 Reasons Why Teaching Key Competencies* with Project Based Learning is a Good Idea

1. Our graduates will be better prepared for college, careers, and citizenship.

2. Students will still learn academic content (and remember it better).

3. Our test scores will be fine, and our students will be better able to meet today's more demanding standards.

4. Students will get better at managing their time and staying organized.

5. Students will learn how to work together to get things done, just as they will need to do on the job.

6. Students' public presentations will be fun to watch, and give them a chance to develop communication skills.

7. Students will be more engaged and take more responsibility for their own learning.

8. Students' creativity might lead to improvements in our community.

9. Parents and community members can share what they know as a content expert, guest speaker, or project consultant.

10. Students will have interesting things to say when asked, "What did you do in school today?"

*e.g., Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Communication, Creativity

Adapted from *PBL for 21st Century Success*, Buck Institute for Education © 2014