Project

innovate inquire imagine

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Project i?

1. Encourages the attainment of life skills and presents real-life work scenarios
   a. Critical thinking
      i. Problem solving
   b. Collaboration and Communication
      i. Working with others
   c. College, career, and global readiness
      i. Self-efficacy
2. Bridges the gap between the classroom and community
3. Promotes personalized learning experiences
4. Seamlessly incorporates technology in an authentic manner
5. Multi-age

All sixth and seventh grade students have the opportunity to apply for this classroom for the 2012-2013 school year. For each middle school, there are 50 total spots available for incoming 7th and 8th grade students. **Students currently enrolled in Project i will have first preference of reserving a spot for the 2013-2014 school year.** *Should the number of students registering exceed 50 - the spots will be filled through a random lottery.*

What shared attributes helped students succeed in Project i this year?

1. **Is able to advocate for him/herself.** *(Ask the advisor a question when help is needed).*
2. **Is receptive to feedback and willing to self-reflect to make positive changes.** *(In a project proposal, use advisor comments to improve project focus).*
3. **Is willing to try new things.** *(technology, project topics, ways to present information, communicating with others, etc.)*
4. **Is self-directed or able to independently problem solve.** *(For example, if waiting to meet with an advisor, can flex schedule to complete other tasks until advisor is available. i.e.: reads, conducts extra research, checks blog, brainstorms new project ideas)*

The current Project i class includes a broad spectrum of learners with varying levels of ability, different interests/learning styles, and familiarity with project-based learning. Among these students, however, we have noticed similar attributes that have helped <u>all</u> types of students be successful. Students continue to grow in these areas with support of their advisor throughout the year.

How is the community involved?

We define community in many ways: classroom, grade level, school, Muskego/Wind Lake, Wisconsin. Through Independent Projects, Community Clubs, and Seminars students will be required to connect with field experts surrounding a multitude of projects, topics, and tasks throughout the year. Advice from experts may be shared through webinars, phone calls, emails, mentoring sessions, field work, site visits, etc. Using their understanding of professionalism, students will be responsible to set up, contact and work in partnership with field experts. If you are interested in helping in any aspect, we welcome your expertise.

How are the students kept on track to learn standards?

All students in Project i are required to meet the Common Core State Standards and Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for respective subject areas. Students are responsible for taking the MAP, Teachers' College Reading, and WKCE assessments like other students in the district. Teachers will serve as advisors to help ensure that students are progressing and demonstrating proficiency of these required standards. A traditional classroom meets the same standards but follows a pacing guide. Project i students meet standards at different times throughout the year based on their readiness and individual projects.

What is the advisor role?

During the year, advisors are continually and consistently creating seminars and/or conferencing with students to ensure students are staying on track with their projects and, ultimately, that they are learning and understanding. Advisors model communication and presentation skills, organization and time management skills, research and inquiry skills, self-assessment and reflection skills, and group participation and leadership skills through seminars for the students. Advisors oversee the group of students and have a constant understanding of who is working on what, their tasks for the week, and are ready to support all next steps.

What is the grading approach for Project i?

In Project i, students work towards demonstrating proficiency/mastery of required knowledge and skills. Projects will be organized using standards as a guide. Prior to the launch of any project, students will work with advisors to determine the project's focus. Students will have a clear understanding of the following:
- What they are expected to learn/criteria for standards
- How the learning will be assessed

The pacing, resources, and method of mastering standards will be differentiated for each student. The same standard may appear in multiple projects until the student has demonstrated competency.
- Students will NOT receive a letter grade for their Core Classes (math, science, social studies, and language arts).
- Students will receive an indicator (Beginning, Progressing, Proficient, Advanced) that reflects their growth on a continuum of learning. Your child's traditional report card will look a bit different. You will be able to track your student's progress on a daily basis through Project Foundry by viewing feedback, discussions, calendars, and tasks to be completed.
- In addition to Core Classes, students will also receive an indicator reflecting their growth with Life Skills.