

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Fall II term! This semester, we will be focusing on our very own community and creating a student-led government that will help ensure that student voices and choices are honored within our community!

Please see below for important information in regards to your child's requirements for this course during this term.

DRIVING QUESTION:

How can we, as a class government, create a system that allows students to have direct oversight, input and voice into the school community decision making process?

Project Based Learning is a "learning by doing" educational pedagogy that seeks to put the student first. It involves a dynamic classroom approach in which students acquire a deeper knowledge through active exploration of real-world challenges and problems. One of the main components of Project Based Learning is a Driving Question. This question quite literally drives the entire project. It is what the student seeks to explain or solve.

PRODUCT:

Students will be creating their own school government. This includes creating a Verdi EcoSchool Constitution, and holding a convention for ratifying proposed amendments.

PRESENTATION:

Presentations are an essential element within Project Based Learning that prepares students for the future and allows them the opportunity to showcase all that they've learned throughout the unit. This piece not only allows students an opportunity to show their knowledge, but also allows them the opportunity to practice their critical thinking skills, written communication skills and oral communication skills. This unit's presentation will be on **November 15, 2019 at 11:15am**. Parents, friends and family are welcome and encouraged to attend!

WHAT WILL STUDENTS BE ASSESSED ON:

Project Based Learning, at its core, really encompasses all domains. It really is a beautiful example of how all forms of learning come together to create new knowledge. This semester, students will be assessed on the following skills:

- Growth mindset
- Creativity
- Collaborative Skills
- Effort

- Social-Emotional Skills
- Presentation Skills (eye contact, pronunciation, knowledge, being prepared)
- Knowledge of government

HOW STUDENTS WILL BE ASSESSED:

Throughout the *Student Government* unit, students will be assessed through ongoing authentic assessment such as collaborative discussions, teacher-student conferences, peer feedback opportunities, and ample reflection opportunities. Students will receive a rubric at the beginning of the unit, and will receive final product/presentation feedback utilizing the same rubric. This rubric will be able to be found on the parent portal no later than October 11, 2019. Students will also spend at least one day a week placing their ongoing work within Seesaw, our online portfolio app. If you have not done so already, please see your email for instructions on how to set up Seesaw on your phone or computer so that you can see all of the wonderful things that your child is working on! All students have already been connected to Seesaw and have been working on uploading their work thus far. Please let me know if you have any questions!

Thank you all for allowing me the opportunity and privilege of teaching your children! They are all so incredible, talented and unique and I'm excited to see what this term will bring!

As always, I am here to answer any questions or address any concerns that you may have! Please don't hesitate to send me an email, brightwheel, text or have a face-to-face conversation if you need me! I'm always here to help!

Best Wishes,
Savannah McCay