

What is Project Based Learning?

Project Based Learning teaches students to be successful in society and in life, not just to take a test on paper. It also...

- Allows for hands-on learning
- Digs deeper into the content
- Connects students to the real world
- Fosters enduring understanding
- Allows for interests and skills to direct how students demonstrate their learning
- Allows for community involvement

What is a Learning Celebration

Our Learning Celebrations will give students an opportunity to show off their hard work to a real audience beyond their classmates. We will invite families, friends and community members into our school to see our final projects.

When will Renaissance students have Learning Celebrations this year?

Our Learning Celebrations give students an opportunity to show off their hard work to a real audience beyond their classmates. We will have Learning Celebration every six weeks. We will send invitations and announcements for each Learning Celebration throughout the year. Our next Learning Celebration will be in November.

Home-School Partnerships are essential for the success of all students. Family members are always welcome to visit, volunteer or offer ideas to make our school better.



Renaissance Public School Academy 2014-15 Updates



The **MISSION** of Renaissance Public School Academy is to engage every student in becoming confident, creative, and collaborative builders of their future.

Our **VISION** for students at Renaissance Public School Academy is that they:

- are passionate, confident leaders that actively engage in learning
- are able to adapt to new challenges and new technologies.
- can work collaboratively while accepting each other's difference
- meet high, academic expectations

Our **MISSION** and **VISION** are what define us as a school. They help guide our planning and decisions as we work to build an exceptional school choice for our students.

WHY ARE WE DOING CONFERENCES NOW?

In past years we have waited until the first report card in December to do conferences. We believe waiting 12 weeks to formally discuss each student's individual progress with parents is simply too long. We want to have a proactive conversation with parents about their student and what we can do as a team to continue their growth.

WHEN WILL WE DO CONFERENCES AGAIN?

We will be scheduling formal conferences again the first week of February. This will be approximately half way through the school year. We will be able to celebrate the successes of the first half of the year while still having time to make ambitious plans for the rest of the year.

As always parents are welcome to visit our school and are encouraged to set up a time to talk with teachers whenever a question or concern arises. We would love to also be part of celebrations of success in a student's life.

WHEN DO WE GET A REPORT CARD?

Report cards will come home three times a year. We plan to send report cards home with students in December, March and June.

What new and innovative changes have happened this year at Renaissance?

MULTI-AGE CLASSROOMS

This year our students who entered first and second grades became Voyagers in multi-age classrooms. Students entering third and fourth grades became Islanders in multi-age classrooms. Voyagers and Islanders in Year 1 (first and third grades) will remain with their teacher for two full years. At the end of the second year on the Voyager team most students would become Islanders for two years. Most Year 2 Islanders would move to fifth

The unique opportunity to spend two years with a student gives teachers the ability to better know your child's individual strengths and weaknesses and provide them a better education using this knowledge. Teachers and students are also able to develop strong, positive relationships, which research shows provides the optimal learning environment. It allows teachers to work with students on an individual and personal level. Students needing more time to learn a concept are able to take the time they need to develop. Students who are exceeding the traditional grade level expectations are allowed to progress to even more complex concepts at an accelerated pace.

Our GOAL is to treat every single student as an individual learner who brings unique talents and interests to their learning. We see our roles as teachers to be to guide students down a path of genuine learning. Our educational setting will be 100% about meeting your student where they are and giving them what they need to continue progressing in their education.

So what makes multi-age different from a split grade classroom?

The traditional classroom grade system assumes all students are ready to learn the same thing, at the same time, in the same way. A split classroom puts two grade levels in a classroom where the teacher is responsible for both sets of grade level standards. The teacher must juggle two sets of plans for two distinct grades of students. A split classroom clearly defines students by their traditional grade level and assumes the needs of the average/typical student should define the pace and content of learning for all in that grade.

What is happening in sixth, seventh and eighth grade?

This year we defined our middle school as sixth, seventh and eighth grade in multi-age, co-taught advisory groups. Students will remain with their advisor for their three years in middle school. They will participate in project based experiences to provide real world, problem solving experiences.

Check them out on

- Twitter [@rpsamiddlelevel](#)
- Facebook at [RPSA Middle School](#)
- On the web at renaissancemiddle-school.weebly.com