Dear Putnam Valley Community:

For the past two summers, Putnam Valley has worked closely with Innovative Designs in Education (IDE) to train two cohorts of teachers on the instructional practices associated with IDE’s Learner Active Technology Infused (LATI) classroom. Teachers from both Putnam Valley Middle School and Putnam Valley High School have participated in summer training sessions and also receive periodic in-class coaching from our LATI consultant.

The LATI classroom is designed to empower our students to take greater ownership over their own learning. Many of the instructional practices encouraged within the LATI classroom reflect well-researched best practices for classroom instruction. These instructional practices include small group work, activity choice, student-centered instruction and a focus on the development of executive functioning skills like time and task management and planning.

While the first cohort of teachers is only beginning their second year infusing these instructional strategies and our second cohort is just starting off this school year, we plan to continue supporting these teachers with professional development to help them refine their use of instructional strategies that we believe will ultimately benefit student learning. Given how new this approach to learning is within Putnam Valley, we fully expect teachers to move between more traditional instruction practices and those practices emphasized within the LATI classroom, dependent on that day’s lesson plan, learning objectives and unit design.

As time allows for the development of more Authentic Learning Units (ALU’s), students will experience a greater emphasis on the practices associated within the LATI classroom. An ALU is designed to begin by identifying a “problem or task,” the intrinsic need for students to solve that problem or complete the task cultivates a “felt need.” The learning occurs as students are guided through different learning tasks all designed to ultimately address the initial “problem or task” that was identified at the beginning of the lesson.

Only a small number of teachers have received explicit training offered by IDE; however, we have already begun to see that some of the instructional strategies
provided during those training sessions are being shared among teachers and across buildings. All teachers in Putnam Valley embrace the need for student-centered instruction and are well versed on the instructional strategies that are known to have the greatest impact on student learning. The LATI classroom is only one example of the many instructional strategies embraced by our teachers here in Putnam Valley. The one constant between the different techniques used is that they all focus on putting the student and their individual learning needs at the center of all learning opportunities.

The district plans to host a parent information session on **Thursday, October 19, at 6:30 pm**, this will be an opportunity for parents to experience a more in-depth look inside a LATI classroom. Please [click here](#) if you would like to attend the information session. Thank you to those who have already responded.

**Thursday, October 19**
**6:30 pm**
**Middle School ALL Room**
**(Active Learning Lab)**

Sincerely,

Jeremy Luft, Ed. D.
Director of Learning and Innovation
Goals for Students in Putnam Valley

Instructional Strategies in ALL Classrooms Should Support…

• Engaging student centered instruction
• Critical thinking and problem solving
• Collaboration and communication
• Social emotional wellness of student
• Development of empathy, compassion, and respect
• Rigorous and relevant curriculum that challenges all learners
• Assessments that inform our instructional practices
• Opportunities for hands-on and active learning
Growth Mindset

10 Growth Mindset Statements

What can I say to myself?

Instead of:

I'm not good at this.
I'm awesome at this.
I give up.
This is too hard.
I can't make this any better.
I just can't do Math.
I made a mistake.
She's so smart, I will never be that smart.
It's good enough.
Plan "A" didn't work.

Try thinking:

1. What am I missing?
2. I'm on the right track.
3. I'll use some of the strategies we've learned.
4. This may take some time and effort.
5. I can always improve so I'll keep trying.
6. I'm going to train my brain in Math.
7. Mistakes help me to learn better.
8. I'm going to figure out how she does it.
9. Is it really my best work?
10. Good thing the alphabet has 25 more letters!

(Original source unknown)
@silviaduckworth
Executive Function Skills

- Working Memory
- Planning
- Cognitive Flexibility
- Reasoning
- Self Regulation
- Problem Solving
Cultivating Problem Finders, Innovators & Entrepreneurs
“Not all entrepreneurs need own their own business, however; they need only turn their ideas into action.”

According the World Economic Forum, “A key competence for all...is to be more creative and self-confident in whatever they undertake.”
College and Career Readiness

2016 Study: Hiring Practices at the Top 40 U.S. Companies

Most Essential Skills:
- Cognitive Ability (Problem Solving, Ability to Learn)
- Emergent Leadership (Identify and Act)
- Cultural Fit (Relationships, Collaboratively)
- Expertise (Job Specific Skills)

Importance of “Soft Skills” for Entry Level Positions
- Communication
- Teamwork
- Leadership
- Critical Thinking
- Problem Solving

“No working day will be complete without writing an email or tackling a new challenge, so the sooner you develop these skills, the more employable you will become.” Dan Schawbel, Research Director at Future Workplace
“sort through vast amounts of information and inputs, often from multiple disciplines; experiment with a variety of different approaches; are willing to switch directions in the course of a project; ….”
First BIG Goal:
Increase Student Engagement and Application of Content

Problem-Based Learning

• Real-World Problem
• Open-Ended and Complex
• Connected to Students’ Lives
• Authentic Audience
Second BIG Goal:
Increase Student Responsibility for Learning and Executive Function Skill Development

Structures and Strategies...

• Choice for practice and learning
• Students Scheduling Time
• Small-Group Instruction
• Purposeful Collaboration

• Technology Infusion
• Building on your Current Practices
• Increasing Student Responsibility for Learning
Structures pictures
Tech Infusion

Technology is a tool to support or enhance instruction but is not the primary source for learning.
Ten Principles of the Learner-Active, Technology-Infusion Classroom

- Learning from a Felt Need
- High Academic Standards
- Individual Learning Paths
- Student Responsibility for Learning
- Connected Learning

- Technology Infusion
- Higher-Order, Open-Ended Problem Solving
- Working Well Collaboratively
- High Social Capital
- Global Citizenship
Choice Activity - Activity List

Two Choices:

Activity List: https://goo.gl/zoexra

Google Classroom App:
Username: parent01@pvcsd.org
Password: tiger