What is PBL?

This year the 8th grade HISTORY classes will be involved with PBL, or project based learning. Project-based learning is very simple. Students are challenged to take charge of their own learning while creating a product that relates to the real world and is directed to a real authentic audience. The teachers are there to coach and support the students by providing smaller group instruction and appropriate resources.

While working in teams, students will learn to collaborate and support one another as they work toward a common goal. Each project will have five protocols the team will work through: Launch/Team, Plan, Research/Work, Create/Critique, and Share. These protocols are set in place to help guide the teams through the production of their project. Along the way, they will also be learning math skills as it relates to the project.

You will notice some different terminology being used during PBL. Below are some vocabulary that you might want to familiarize yourself with.

**Challenge Brief**- the project guidelines and criteria

**Evidence-** practice assignments students must complete, otherwise known as homework

**Progress Checks**- quizzes to check students’ progress

**DIY**- do-it-yourself activities students may choose to complete to better understand a concept

**Critique**- feedback from the teacher or classmates on progress or the product

**Protocol**- the stages of the project

We are extremely excited to implement PBL and believe that it will make a positive difference in your student’s history education. As in any new educational philosophy there is always a learning curve. We encourage you to be an active part of your student’s PBL experience and alert us with any questions or concerns. Your student’s learning and success are always our first priority.