



October Newsletter

Volume 1 | Issue 2 | CRESEL in the Sitka School District

Announcements

Last month, I focused this newsletter solely on the work educators and students are doing at Blatchley. From this day forward, this newsletter will also include Sitka High School and Pacific High School. My intent is for us all to celebrate the work that we are all doing and to support each other in growth and leadership.

Sitka High and Pacific High Staff –

The box to the right contains the foci for Blatchley Middle School's CRESEL implementation. Feel free to ask questions, use at will, or be inspired.

CRESEL Spotlight

Character Strength: Wisdom

Curiosity and Creativity

Southeast Alaska Traditional Tribal Values

- We are Stewards of the Air, Land, and Sea
- Humor
- Be Strong in Mind, Body, and Spirit

SEL Themes

- Starting Right, Growth Mindset, Resilience, Planning Ahead

Social Emotional Learning

You might try embedding the SEL standard from our visioning session into your classroom.

Relationships

4A.11: Individual demonstrates an ability to both be a leader and a team player in achieving group goals

SEL Skills

- Understanding that the brain can grow and change.
- Recognizing that personalities can change.

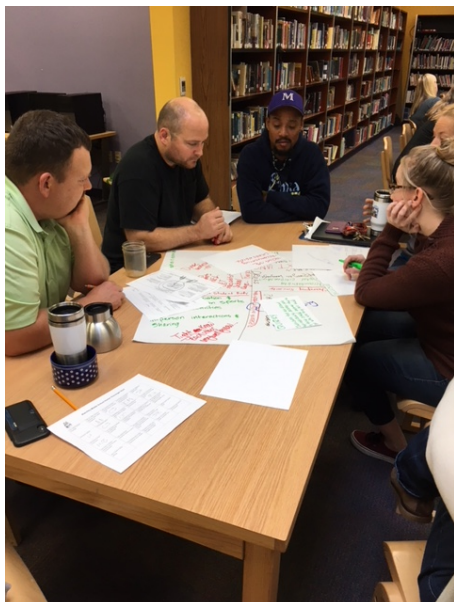
Simple Ideas to Teach: Curiosity and Creativity

Incorporate mystery, intrigue, or ambiguity.

Allow space for unstructured exploration.

Find or create a “hook” for every topic.

Provide for student choice and voice. Create a “Parking Lot”. Teach students to ask questions.



Highlights at Blatchley Middle School

Educators came together to co-create a vision for what CRESEL should look like at BMS.



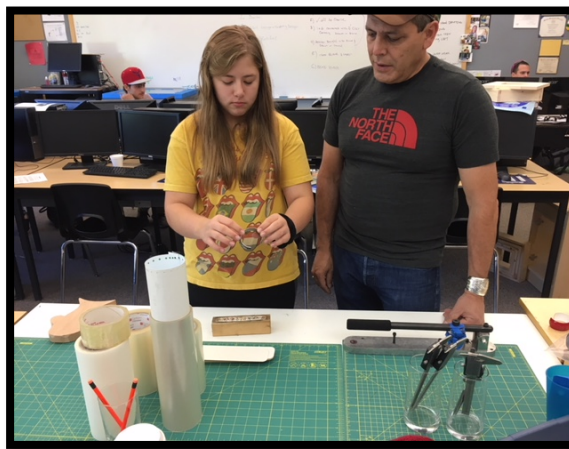
Culture and Diversity Considerations

- 15 September-15 October is National Hispanic Heritage Month
- LGBTQ+ History Month
- 2 October is Gandhi’s birthday and the International Day of Nonviolence

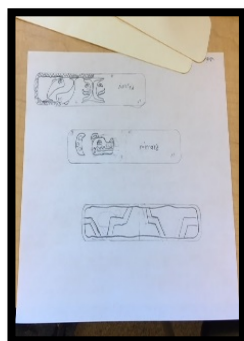
“The important thing for you is to be alert, to question, to find out, so that your own initiative may be awakened.”

— Bruce Lee

Mike Vierra's FabLab class is collaborating with Charlie Skulka to create bracelets that incorporate Northwest Coast Native design principles. Students use computer design technology and laser cutters to manufacture creative original pieces.



Student sketch using NW Coast shapes and patterns



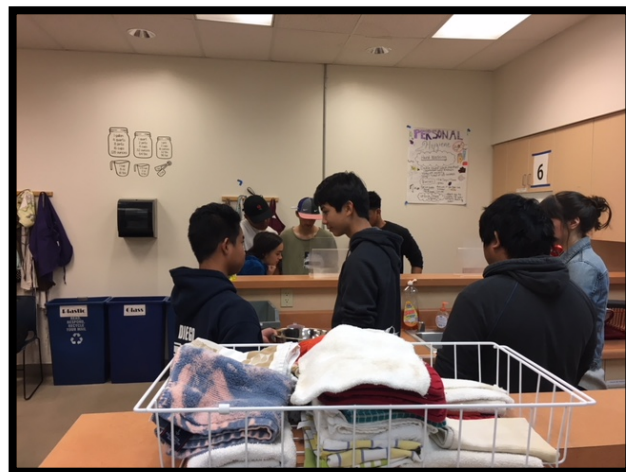
Highlights at Sitka High School



Meggan Turner's Foods class focuses heavily on inclusivity and creativity. She intentionally leads team-building activities and fosters collegiality among the students in her class. Additionally, we made Olive Garden breadsticks. Butter!



The class learns a sign every day before cooking. Above is the sign for "bread".



Highlights at Pacific High School



A special appreciation should be extended to the Sitka Sound Science Center for the extensive time and love that they pour into the Sitka School District's staff and students. It seems that wherever I go, the SSSC is there.

Thank you!

Matt Groen's Alaska Studies: Salmon Subsistence class is focusing on subsistence harvesting. He is coaching his students to foster a deep understanding of local animals and plants that have supported and continue to support us.

Last week they worked with the Sitka Sound Science Center to spawn salmon and fertilize eggs.

