Time for a Change:
A Proven Solution for Blended Project-Based Learning

Michael Golden, CEO Educurious
Introduction to Michael Golden

• Education strategist committed to education reform
• CEO of Educurious
• Senior executive at Microsoft & Pearson
• Former Deputy Secretary of Education, Pennsylvania
• Ed.D. in Education Leadership from University of Pennsylvania and MBA from Harvard University
POLLING QUESTION...
I am entirely certain that twenty years from now we will look back at education as it is practiced in most schools today and wonder how we could have tolerated anything so primitive.

JOHN W. GARDNER,
Education Secretary to President Lyndon Johnson, 1965-1968
Challenges Persist

• 70% of employers say high school graduates lack critical thinking and problem solving skills
• 66% of students are “bored everyday”
• 37% of teachers are satisfied in their jobs
• NAEP scores haven’t budged for years
• 50% of high school graduates aren’t ready for college work
CHANGE AHEAD
Why now?

What’s different?
New Opportunities Exist
LET’S GET TO KNOW TODAY’S STUDENTS...
92% of American children have an online presence by the time they are 2 YEARS OLD
There are 2nd graders who type 60 words a minute.
There are high school students who earn a **full salary** during the year doing Internet work in their spare time.
About Educurious Video

http://youtu.be/Ee--vKj53eY
Educurious

• **Educurious** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

• **Our vision** is an effective education system in which young people learn in meaningful and inspiring ways and classrooms are a place they want to be.

• **Our goal** is to cultivate curious, motivated young people who are ready for college and tomorrow's careers.
The Educurious Integrated Solution

Engage students in authentic projects built to emerging standards

Connect students with a network of disciplinary and career experts

Support teachers as they move to trusted guides, inspired facilitators and change agents

Inspire a technology rich learning experience that fosters enthusiasm, creativity and collaboration
Project-Based Learning Goes Deeper

• English and Biology courses for grades 8-10
• Real world challenges are posed with student choice and interests driving need to know
• Relevant and personally meaningful to students
• Aligned to the Common Core State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards
Project-Based Learning Goes Deeper
Experts Help Students See the Possibilities Ahead

• National network of 500+ professionals
• Connect with students, collaborate on course projects, and give concrete feedback
• Offer a first-hand look at universe of career possibilities
Experts Help Students See the Possibilities Ahead

Rural community eastern WA

Vice President Gaming
Blended Learning Approach

• Digitally rich materials, multimedia and portions of curriculum delivered over platform
• Teachers, students and experts collaborate on project work, incorporating 21st century learning
• Platform supports student pathways, continuous assessment and data analytics
Blended Learning Approach
Professional Development

• Support change with F2F and online experiences
• Participate in powerful learning communities
• Support implementation and ongoing growth
• Create opportunities for developing leadership
Professional Development
The Educurious Learning Experience Is Transformational

- Builds a foundation and path for school change
- Brings the world into schools to inspire and motivate
- Facilitates 21st-century teaching and learning
- Empowers student-centered, personalized learning
Students’ Self-Image and Aspirations Grow

http://youtu.be/FsVF5d50mu0
OUR IMPACT
Academic Progress: Opal High School
State Test English/Language Arts results

Educurious Teacher at Opal 2013: 90%
Non Educurious Teachers at Opal 2013: 85%
State Passing Rate 2012-13: 80%
Reading Scores Increase

Average increase of 18% from pre to post-test
Writing Skills Improve

Perspective...
Reasons (Development)
Evidence...
Opposing (Controlling...)
Engaging
Organization
Reading/Research

Case Study Arguments

Final Arguments
Student Engagement Increases

1 = low, 5 = high

- Focused Immersion
- Heightened Enjoyment
- Intention to Revisit
- Temporal Dissasociation
- Narrative Engagement

Weeks:
- Week 1
- Week 2
- Week 3
- Week 4
- Week 5
- Week 6
Learning That Connects

Work in 9 states in various environments, including urban, suburban and rural districts, charter networks, across diverse student populations.
Ready for Change?
Align your Strategic Plan

• Ensure your strategic goals support your vision for change
• Select appropriate outcome metrics for each participant
• Focus on “how” as well as “what”
• Adjust approaches, processes, schedules and milestones
Recast Budget and Costs

- Prioritize spending for maximum leverage
- Think synergistically, not incrementally or sequentially
- Utilize technology as a value-add tool
- Focus on efficiencies and impact
Empower your Team

- Establish a transformative school culture
- Cultivate distributed and shared leadership
- Leverage “the willing and ready” as leads
- Build capacity at all levels
- Model the behavior you want in others
Recruit Partners

- Don’t reinvent: customize successful models to your context
- Tap other schools’ leaders as advisors
- Seek advice from experts of all types
- Establish community/business partnerships
- Encourage stakeholder participation
Make it Happen

• Execute with fidelity of implementation
• Adjust and revise based on data and learnings
• Build a culture of continuous improvement
• Celebrate success as you cultivate curious, motivated young people ready for college and tomorrow's careers.
QUESTIONS