EDUCATION TO BETTER THEIR WORLD

THE EMERGING VISION OF A NEW K-12 EDUCATION FOR THE EMPOWERED KIDS OF TOMORROW

IB Asia-Pacific Annual Conference, Hyderabad, India, March, 2016
Let me begin with what’s REALLY on your minds...
Respect for elders or Independence
Obedience or Self-reliance
Good manners or Curiosity
Well-behaved or Considerate

“AUTHORITARIAN”

TRUMP

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PYP cl. of 2028
MYP cl. of 2032
DIPLOMA cl. of 2035
STAN/VARD cl. of 2040
How much will his world have changed in 20 years?
Long-term population history:

(from 10001 BC to 2013) (in millions of people)
(population for current political boundaries)
In the remainder of the 21st century and beyond…
What we call “education” will be very different.
• BETTER ENDS
• BETTER MEANS
• BETTER CURRICULUM
• BETTER TEACHING
• BETTER TECHNOLOGY USE
FROM:

ATTENDING A GREAT SCHOOL
TO

“AN APPRENTICESHIP TO THE WORLD”
WE ALREADY LIVE IN A WORLD EVOLVING INCREDIBLY RAPIDLY, WITH ...
Increased Volatility
Increased Uncertainty
Increased Complexity
Increased Ambiguity

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accelerating Change

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Today, what we ask of our kids in this world is...
Academic Achievement
Success in the current system
Knowledge of subjects
College readiness
“We will graduate students who are accomplished in the academic skills one would expect…(blah, blah, blah)
WHAT SHOULD WE ASK OF OUR KIDS TOMORROW?
IMPROVE YOUR WORLD!
“At our heart we are motivated by a mission to create a better world through education.”
“EDUCATION FOR LIFE”

“EDUCATION FOR A BETTER WORLD”
Individuals
Grades & rankings
Personal success

Teams
Projects that improve their world
Real-world results

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We’re looking for smart, team-oriented people WHO CAN GET THINGS DONE
IMPROVING THE WORLD

YESTERDAY AND TODAY’S PARADIGM

KIDS + CONTENT

LEARNING

“IMPROVED” PEOPLE (intellectually)

IMPROVED WORLD (maybe, someday)
What the world now wants and needs is REAL-WORLD ACCOMPLISHMENT
OUR KIDS ARE ALREADY STARTING TO ACCOMPLISH AND WANT TO DO MORE!
WHAT THEY NOW NEED FROM US IS
• HELP IN APPLYING THEIR PASSION TO IMPROVING THE WORLD

• RESPECT AND TRUST

• INDEPENDENCE

• FOR US TO BELIEVE IN THEM
“She showed me I could take my dreams as seriously as I wanted”

James Franco
WE COME FROM A GREAT TRADITION OF EDUCATION…
...BUT THERE ARE, REALLY,
TWO GREAT TRADITIONS OF EDUCATION
"ACCOMPLISHMENT" TRADITION

ACTION
RELATIONSHIPS
ACCOMPLISHMENT

BUSINESSES

"ACADEMIC" TRADITION

THINKING

SCHOOLS

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WE HAVE TO PUT THE TWO TRADITIONS BACK TOGETHER
“AN APPRENTICESHIP TO THE WORLD”
KIDS HAVE ALWAYS ...
LEARNED MORE...
AND BEEN MOST MOTIVATED...
WHEN DOING REAL PROJECTS...
IN THE REAL WORLD...
FOR REAL AUDIENCES...
THAT PREPARE THEM FOR THE WORLD THEY WILL LIVE IN!
NOW, WITH...
The world at your fingertips...
Our kids are no longer the people we were in school.
THEY ARE NOW PEOPLE WITH
EXTENDED BRAINS...
...ALL NETWORKED TOGETHER
TODAY’S KIDS ARE FAR MORE EMPOWERED
THEY CAN DO INFINITELY MORE!
AND COLLABORATE IN TOTALLY NEW WAYS!
They’re already empowered to...
IN NEW AND BETTER WAYS
Examples...
Primary school kids mapping the brain with Eyewire

Real-world Accomplishment Example:
KIDS USING TECHNOLOGY POWERFULLY
Real-world Accomplishment Example:
KIDS USING TECHNOLOGY POWERFULLY

High school kids building super-computers
12-year-old girls 3D-printing custom prosthetic hands, using the Internet to find kids who need them.
Real-world Accomplishment Example:
KIDS IMPROVING THEIR COMMUNITIES

9-year-olds designing a new water park with local architects
Real-world Accomplishment Example:
KIDS HELPING DO THE WORK OF GOVERNMENT

11-year-olds doing government-mandated environmental reports, formerly done by consultants
An 11-year-old becoming one of the world’s top cryptographers
High school kids testing local water quality and improving it
Real-world Accomplishment Example:
KIDS PRESERVING AND RESTORING OUR HERITAGE

Teens restoring historic ships and artifacts
Real-world Accomplishment Example:
KIDS BECOMING ENTREPRENEURS

Primary and middle school kids starting and growing companies
(“Ryan's Well,” “Color My World”)
TO SERVE THESE KIDS...
WE NEED TO

FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGE THE IDEA OF WHAT GLOBAL EDUCATION SHOULD BE

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EDUCATION CAN NO LONGER BE
JUST AN ACADEMIC PROCESS
WE NEED TO BE EMPOWERING OUR KIDS FURTHER...
TO USE THEIR NEW ABILITIES.....
TO ADD VALUE AND
IMPROVE THEIR PERSONAL, LOCAL AND
GLOBAL COMMUNITIES…
THROUGH

REAL-WORLD ACCOMPLISHMENT!
WE ALREADY DO “A BIT”:  
E.G. 
- **LONG-TERM PROJECTS** 
- **SERVICE PROJECTS**
...BUT WE NEED TO DO MUCH MORE!
WE’RE HEADED TOWARD A NEW EDUCATION MATRIX WITH

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REAL-WORLD ACCOMPLISHMENT
Individual & team solutions
based on
Passions & Local / Global Needs

AT ITS CORE, BECAUSE
REAL-WORLD ACCOMPLISHMENT IS WHAT WILL ENABLE OUR FUTURE KIDS TO SUCCEED!
“Nothing builds self-esteem and self-confidence like accomplishment.”

THOMAS CARLYLE
PEOPLE WHO CAN
GET THINGS DONE
TODAY WE ARE SHORTCHANGING BOTH OUR STUDENTS AND OURSELVES...
BY DEEPLY UNDERESTIMATING WHAT OUR KIDS ARE NOW CAPABLE OF, AND THE VALUE THEY CAN NOW ADD TO THE WORLD
ACADEMIC EDUCATION ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH BECAUSE...
IT SO DEEPLY UNDERESTIMATES WHAT OUR KIDS CAN NOW DO
IT IS A FUNDAMENTAL ERROR TO THINK THAT IF WE JUST IMPROVE “ACADEMIC EDUCATION” (AND PERHAPS ADD A FEW MORE SKILLS) ALL WILL BE WELL
SO IT’S TIME FOR A
OUR TIMES DEMAND
AN EDUCATION THAT GOES BEYOND “ACADEMIC” EDUCATION TO
AN

“EDUCATION TO BETTER THEIR WORLD”
• BETTER ENDS
• BETTER MEANS
• BETTER CURRICULUM
• BETTER TEACHING
• BETTER TECHNOLOGY USE
1. A BETTER GOAL, AND END, FOR ALL OF US

BEYOND

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT

TO

A BETTER WORLD

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A BETTER GOAL, AND END, FOR STUDENTS

BEYOND

“LEARNING”

TO

BECOMING

Good, effective, world-improving people

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“LEARNING” IS A MEANS TO BETTERING THE WORLD AND BECOMING GOOD, EFFECTIVE WORLD-IMPROVING PEOPLE, BUT

“LEARNING” IS NOT THE GOAL OF EDUCATING OUR KIDS
BETTERING THEIR WORLD
and
BECOMING GOOD, EFFECTIVE, WORLD-IMPROVING PEOPLE

IS THE GOAL OF EDUCATING OUR KIDS
2. A BETTER MEANS

BEYOND

LECTURING
DISCUSSION
TESTING

TO

REAL-WORLD
ACCOMPLISHMENT

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A BETTER MEANS

BEYOND

“MADE-UP PROBLEMS”

TO

REAL-WORLD PROJECTS
THAT SOLVE REAL PROBLEMS

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A BETTER MEANS

BEYOND

THE NEEDS OF THE TEACHER AND CLASS

TO

THE NEEDS OF THE LOCAL AND GLOBAL WORLD
A BETTER MEANS

BEYOND

CLASS PROJECTS AND PROBLEMS

TO

“APPLIED PASSIONS”

OF INDIVIDUALS AND TEAMS

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2. A BETTER MEANS

A TRANSCRIPT OF GRADES AND PRIZES TO A RESUME OF REAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

BEYOND
SO OUR KIDS BECOME
“SOLUTIONARIES”

Zoe Weil
Our kids are already starting to do this on their own:
REAL-WORLD PROJECTS DATABASE

EMPOWERING KIDS THROUGH REAL-WORLD ACCOMPLISHMENT

empowered to ACT and ACCOMPLISH
empowered to BECOME
empowered to HELP
empowered to LEARN
empowered to PRESERVE
empowered to CREATE
empowered to INSPIRE
empowered to JOIN TOGETHER
OUR JOB IS TO MAKE THEM EVEN MORE POWERFUL!
3. A FAR BETTER “SUPPORTING” CURRICULUM

BEYOND

TRADITIONAL SUBJECTS

TO

THINKING ACTION RELATIONSHIPS ACCOMPLISHMENT

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WE NEED TO GET **BEYOND**...
TO A SUPPORTING CURRICULUM OF
Effective THINKING
Effective ACTION
Effective RELATIONSHIPS
And especially Effective, Real-World ACCOMPLISHMENT

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BECAUSE...
“SUBJECTS” are needed in different amounts by each student.

“GENERALIZED SKILLS” are needed as much as possible by EVERY student.
IT’S IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THAT, IN TERMS OF SKILLS TAUGHT...
TODAY’S GLOBAL K-12 CURRICULUM IS INCREDIBLY NARROW

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<th>TAUGHT SYSTEMATICALLY TODAY</th>
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<td>Mathematical Thinking</td>
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THE RANGE OF SKILLS ALL KIDS REALLY NEED IS FAR BROADER
## NOT TAUGHT SYSTEMATICALLY TODAY:

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<th>Effective THINKING</th>
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Problem solving
(collaborative & individual)
Curiosity and questioning
Design Thinking
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EFFECTIVE ACTION SKILLS
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EFFECTIVE RELATIONSHIP SKILLS
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Collaborating & Communicating In teams
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Collaborating & Communicating
With machines
Listening
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Relationship building
Empathy
Courage
Compassion
Tolerance
Ethics
Conflict Resolution
Negotiation
Peer-to-peer helping
Coaching & being coached
SHOULD ANY OF THOSE SKILLS NOT BE PART OF OUR CURRICULUM?
BUT TO ACQUIRE THE CURRICULUM
WE NEED TO GO

BEYOND

Learning “subjects”

TO

ACQUIRING SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE AS NEEDED FOR PROJECTS

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4.

A FAR BETTER KIND OF “TEACHING”

BEYOND

Content delivery

TO

COACHING
and
EMPOWERMENT
5. A FAR BETTER USE OF TECHNOLOGY

BEYOND

Old things done in new ways

TO

NEW AND POWERFUL THINGS

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USES OF TECHNOLOGY

“TRIVIAL”
- Searching
- Writing
- Research
- Calculating
- Watching video

POWERFUL
- Real-time connection
- Creating Apps
- Complex analyses
- Simulation
- Making video
- Robotics

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“EDUCATION TO BETTER THEIR WORLD”
• BETTER ENDS
• BETTER MEANS
• BETTER CURRICULUM
• BETTER TEACHING
• BETTER TECHNOLOGY USE
IS STARTING TO EMERGE AROUND THE GLOBE IN OUR BEST SCHOOLS
WITH A NEW EDUCATION MATRIX

WHOSE CORE FOCUS IS
REAL-WORLD ACCOMPLISHMENT

New Core, Needed by all

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REAL-WORLD ACCOMPLISHMENT
Individual & team solutions based on Passions & Local / Global Needs

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IT DOES NOT MEAN REMOVING MATH, LANGUAGE, SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES FROM OUR EDUCATION,

BUT, RATHER, INDIVIDUALIZING THOSE SUBJECTS TO FIT STUDENTS’ APPLIED PASSIONS AND TO HELP OUR KIDS IMPROVE THE WORLD THROUGH REAL-WORLD ACCOMPLISHMENTS
IT DOES NOT MEAN MORE CLASSES, BUT RATHER SKILLS LEARNED AS NEEDED THROUGH THE INDIVIDUALIZED PROJECTS
MORE AND MORE PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD
INCLUDING THE LEADERS OF THE IBO
ARE NOW REALIZING THAT...
OUR NEW WORLD AND EMPOWERED KIDS REQUIRE A DIFFERENT EDUCATION:

“AN EDUCATION TO BETTER THEIR WORLD”
WHAT WE NEED TO DO NOW IS TO CONVINCE

• PARENTS

• TEACHERS

• OUR COMMUNITIES

THAT THIS IS THE RIGHT WAY TO GO

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TO FIND WHAT WORKS BEST IN EACH SCHOOL AND FOR EACH KID...
WE NEED TO EXPERIMENT!
“Don’t experiment with MY kid!”
SORRY, BUT WE HAVE TO!
IN FACT,

IT WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE OF US NOT TO!....
BECAUSE OUR KIDS LIVE IN A...
NEVER-BEFORE-SEEN CONTEXT
THAT IS VERY DIFFERENT
...FROM THE WORLD IN WHICH WE — TODAY’S ADULTS — GREW UP
...AND WE DON’T YET REALLY KNOW HOW TO PREPARE PEOPLE FOR THAT CONTEXT!
SO WE MUST

ALL EXPERIMENT TOGETHER!
TO CREATE A NEW EDUCATION THAT IS
BETTER FOR OUR KIDS
BETTER FOR US
EDUCATION TO BETTER THEIR WORLD IS BETTER FOR OUR KIDS because it provides them with

• INDEPENDENCE

• APPLIED PASSION

• A STRONG RESUME OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• A STRONG SENSE OF HOW THEY FIT INTO THE FUTURE WORLD
EDUCATION TO BETTER THEIR WORLD IS BETTER FOR ALL OF US

BECAUSE IT LIBERATES HUGE AMOUNTS OF UNUSED STUDENT POTENTIAL TO IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITIES AND OUR WORLD
WE ARE, TODAY, ON THE GROUND FLOOR
OF A VERY NEW WORLD TO COME!
IMAGINATION
INNOVATION
ENTREPRENEUIAL SPIRIT
I’M A HUGE OPTIMIST ABOUT THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION...
BECAUSE I’M A HUGE OPTIMIST ABOUT TODAY’S KIDS!
ALL KIDS EVERYWHERE!
THEY NEED AN EDUCATION THAT MORE DEEPLY COMBINES THE ACADEMIC AND ACCOMPLISHMENT TRADITIONS OF EDUCATION
THEY NEED AN EDUCATION
THAT MORE DEEPLY
INTEGRATES OUR KIDS INTO
HELPING THEIR
LOCAL AND GLOBAL COMMUNITIES

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THEY NEED AN EDUCATION
AND TEACHING THAT
EMPOWERS
THEM
FURTHER
• Independence
• Applied passion
• A strong sense of accomplishment
• A strong sense of how they fit into the future world
WE NEED TO HELP THE PARENTS UNDERSTAND
HOW TO SUPPORT THEIR KIDS
AS THEY BECOME EMPOWERED
AND GO DOWN NEW PATHS!

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Respect for elders
Obedience
Good manners
Well-behaved

Independence
Self-reliance
Curiosity
Considerate

“AUTHORITARIAN”
TRUMP
THE EDUCATION OUR KIDS NEED DOESN’T FULLY EXIST ANYWHERE TODAY…
BUT WE CAN CREATE IT!
…IF WE REMIND OURSELVES THAT
THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT WORDS
ANY EDUCATOR CAN SAY TO ANY STUDENT
ARE THESE:
“Surprise me.”
So let’s all work hard to make our education about
REAL-WORLD ACCOMPLISHMENT!
Marc Prensky
THE WORLD NEEDS A NEW CURRICULUM

Marc Prensky
EDUCATION TO BETTER THEIR WORLD
To get the slides:

**email:**

marcprensky@gmail.com