DESIGNING FOR DEEPER LEARNING:
MASTERY, IDENTITY, CREATIVITY
& A NEW GRAMMAR OF SCHOOLING

Jal Mehta, Professor of Education,
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Presentation to Latvia Education Technology Conference
What is.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
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<td>Social studies</td>
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<td>P.E.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Required Attendance</td>
<td># days in school</td>
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Problem-solver
Communicator
Collaborator
Self-directed lifelong learner
Creative & critical thinker
Entrepreneur
Contribution community and global citizen
What should be.
IN SEARCH OF DEEPER LEARNING
THE QUEST TO REMAKE THE AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL

JAL MEHTA
SARAH FINE
Theater: Servant of Two Masters

(Suburban Traditional High School)

- Authentic Purpose: Arc towards public performance
- Student agency
- Choice
- Community/family
- Whole game at junior level
Science: Methods of Scientific Inquiry

(Urban Traditional High School)

- Design an experiment around an authentic research question (ex: does music make you more focused while studying?)
- Choice and agency
- Conduct literature review
- Design the study, given financial and logistical constraints
- Adjust hypothesis when null results happen
XONR8 Project (High Tech High Chula Vista)

- Meet with real exonerees
- Meet with lawyers at the CIP
- Read & analyze a “training case”
- Work on a pending case
- Present cases to the CIP lawyers
- Write a final argumentative essay
“Why do I feel like I need to do well in this project? Because we’re just part of something so big. It’s like we’re holding somebody’s life in our hands.”
Slow Down
Mastery

Identity

Creativity
Powerful Learning Experiences Brought Together
Mastery, Identity, and Creativity
Coverage is King
Control key to learning
Performance over learning
Center dominant culture
Basics before deeper learning
Coverage is King

Empowerment key to learning

Basics through deeper learning

Depth over breadth

Learning over performance

Center non-dominant culture
The “Grammar of Schooling”

- Age graded schooling
- Egg crate classrooms
- Siloed subjects
- Leveling and tracking
- Performance over learning
A New Grammar of Schooling

- Change the Purpose: Student purpose, agency, choice, and voice
- Change the Relationships: Every student seen, known, and heard
- Change the Curriculum: Marie Kondo the Curriculum
- Change the Time & Schedule: 3 blocks, 60-75 student teacher load
- Change the Assessments: Performance assessments
- Change the Boundaries: Permeable boundaries between subjects and school and world
- Change the Power: Center non-dominant knowledge for everyone