

Innovation Update

Heather Tow-Yick, Superintendent

Julia Bamba, Principal on Special Assignment

October 10, 2024



ISSAQUAH
SCHOOL DISTRICT 411

Purpose

- Review innovation
- Review two priority areas we aim to solve
- Share updates on pilots
- Gather feedback

Why Innovation?

Innovation allows us to creatively and effectively make learning more engaging, accessible, and personalized, ultimately leading to improved outcomes and experiences for all students.

Gibson Ek High School est. 2016

Providing an innovative educational model for students looking for a more personalized, authentic, project-based approach to learning

Real World Learning, Career Readiness

Increasing opportunities for students to deepen learning in career readiness pathways, earning industry recognized credentials

Microschool Launch 2024-2025

Redesigning the learner experience to provide an option for more relevant, engaging, and community connected learning within our comprehensive middle and high schools

RE-IMAGINE THE FUTURE of education in the Issaquah School District



All students thrive as they engage in meaningful learning that unlocks their passion and potential to positively impact the world.

Examples of what we are aiming to solve?

Real World, Career Connected Learning	
What we aim to solve	Not all students are graduating with the ability to make informed decisions about their future so that they are prepared to access meaningful learning, employment, or service opportunities
Vision	All students will graduate with real world learning experience through multiple opportunities supported by their schools or district
Student Choice and Agency	
What we aim to solve	Not all students are currently thriving and graduating prepared for a future of their own design in our current system
Vision	All students regardless of background, ability, or identity will have agency to align what and how they learn to their goals, strengths, and needs

Microschool Pilot

How can we redesign learning experiences for students to provide an option for more relevant, engaging, and problem-based learning?

Pilot opportunity for students at Issaquah High School to learn with a teacher and cohort of students for two periods during the day. Students engage in problem-based learning that spans physics lab methods, chemistry lab methods, and language arts. Learning includes real world and community connected experiences.

- **Learning Outside the Walls of the Classroom**-Students learn both in the classroom and in our community, providing a well-rounded educational experience
- **Inter-disciplinary**-Students can earn credit in multiple content areas through cross content learning
- **Good Fit** -Students have a strong desire to learn and want a more project-based, collaborative approach to learning with a deeper connection to their personal lives and experiences

Advisory and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Pilot

How can we ensure every secondary student feels connection and support at school?

Pilot effort aiming to strengthen teacher capacity to seamlessly integrate SEL into courses. School teams can implement, test, and provide feedback on research based lessons and activities allowing us to determine the benefits versus challenges of SEL integration while also exploring the benefits of a strong advisory model.



- **Strong Relationships**-Students thrive when they have caring, trusting relationships with adults, peers, and the community
- **Guidance and Support**-Students receiving weekly contact with a teacher who can monitor their academic and social emotional development, leads to opportunities for all students to achieve at their highest potential
- **Purpose and Agency**-When students know they matter to the adults and peers that they work with, they can develop a sense of purpose and agency that leads to a future with goals and passion

Career Preparation

How can we shift career preparation and credential opportunities for students so all students graduate prepared to make informed decisions about their future?

Through the strategic plan and career preparation efforts, middle and high school students are engaging in experiences and lessons guided by adults that they know well. This new approach allows us to set the foundation for future expansion and opportunities related to career readiness.

- **High School and Beyond Planning** - Through redesigned high school and beyond lessons and activities, students engage in meaningful activities connected to their personal strengths and interests, helping to guide decisions in high school and beyond planning
- **Shifting Career Preparation and Credentials**-Providing students with access to some deeper, credential-bearing opportunities across schools while maintaining strong offerings for exploratory learning

Questions and Thoughts

Share questions or thoughts related to:

- Innovation
- What we're aiming to address through innovation
- Pilot efforts



ISSAQUAH
SCHOOL DISTRICT 411