

Focus Group: Cynwyd Elementary School Staff

Date: 4/9/14

Key Question

1. What should school look like in 10 years?

- Less teacher talk – higher levels of student engagement.
- Community connections – Outreach – Parent Training/Education
- Full Day Kindergarten – helping to close achievement gap.
- Education shift – more personalized and less standardized
- Whole Child Learning – Integration of Arts, Music, Etc.
- Arts are incorporated with the same energy as core subjects (Sir Ken Robinson)
- Technology is being used as an extension of student growth and learning.
Develop higher order thinking skills.
- Daily technology integration
- 1-1 laptops at elementary
- Decrease in State Testing – Assessment is designed FOR learning.
- All students are happy and free of stress
- More Differentiation
- Open Classrooms
- More Flexible Curriculum Delivery
- More divergent teaching
- Students feel “Safe and Wanted”
- Students will be creative, out of the box and flexible thinkers
- Meaningful testing
- Fewer concepts – more depth
- Integration of all subjects (arts included)
- Focus similar to BS’s Evolve Program
- Focus on educational values and equity
- Less test prep and more student-led learning in the classroom.
- All stakeholders work collaboratively and are happy and stress-free.
- Students are happy
- Foster creativity
- Schools are welcoming
- Students are seen, heard and valued!
- Classroom environment is safe to allow students to take risks.
- Students are independent thinkers and learners
- Individualized instruction
- Real-world learning
- Students are given the ability to take initiative
- Global and local respect and awareness
- Students are strong communicators, problem solvers, and creative/critical thinkers.
- Students are able to be comfortable in who they are and what they want to pursue, and the school provides them with positive support and resources to obtain these individualized goals.