

Innovation Elementary School
Exemplary Project Community Summary
June 23, 2023

Project Title: TBD - [Please vote for your preferred title option](#)

Project Purpose: To engage students in using creativity, collaboration, and innovation to identify and solve community problems.

Project framework: Design Thinking (see slides for more information about Design Thinking)

Project Implementation, Year 1:

1. Enhance the Innovation Maker Space.
 - a. Move to a more central location (room 220)
 - b. Purchase additional capital resources (school and PTA)
 - c. Provide all classrooms with an opportunity to use this space at least once a semester
2. Include a Design Thinking specials rotation for grades 3-5 in the master schedule.
3. Create lessons for teachers to use to teach students about each step of the design thinking process.
 - a. Lessons will be differentiated for grades prek-2 and grades 3-5
 - b. Lessons will be linked to content standards (science or social studies)
4. Have a schoolwide kickoff event that introduces students to the Explore and Empathize step of design thinking.
 - a. Includes a school assembly
 - b. Includes ways for students to explore their various communities through service and investigation
5. Select four school wide read-alouds (one per quarter) to support consistent messaging and understanding of the Design Thinking process.
6. Purchase *Design Thinking in the Classroom* for all staff and incorporate design thinking into staff professional learning throughout the year
 - a. Kickoff session during pre-service week
 - b. Book study throughout the year
 - c. Planning time to develop lessons that incorporate the design thinking approach
7. Develop a community outreach plan to ensure that knowledge of the exemplary project exists and develops in our family community
 - a. Presentations at PTA meetings
 - b. Communications plan
 - c. Incorporation of design thinking activities in our academic nights

Project implementation, Year 2 and beyond:

1. Continue to enhance Innovation Maker Space and opportunities for use

2. Expand design thinking lesson resources and projects
3. Expand school wide read-alouds to monthly
4. Continue with staff professional learning - conference opportunities, lesson development
5. Expand Design Thinking specials rotation to lower grades
6. Create and leverage partnerships with local businesses and organizations
 - a. Guest speakers
 - b. Field trips
 - c. Assemblies
7. Grade level projects
8. Student challenges - daily, weekly, or quarterly