

What is Design Thinking?

A framework for innovative and critical problem solving

Background

Design Thinking is a process that centers empathetic thinking to creatively meet identified needs.

Design Thinking has five steps: Empathize, Ideate, Design, Prototype, and Test

Following this process will allow our students to develop both their C.A.R.E.S. skills and their critical and creative thinking skills to be problem solvers and community helpers - now and in the future.

Information about the evolution and application of Design Thinking can be found here:

1. [IDEO - History of Design Thinking](#)
2. [Stanford d.school - Current applications of Design Thinking](#)
3. [Design Thinking in the Elementary Classroom - Ideas for K-12 application](#)

Design Thinking at Innovation

Our goal is to anchor activities and projects at Innovation to the Design Thinking framework.

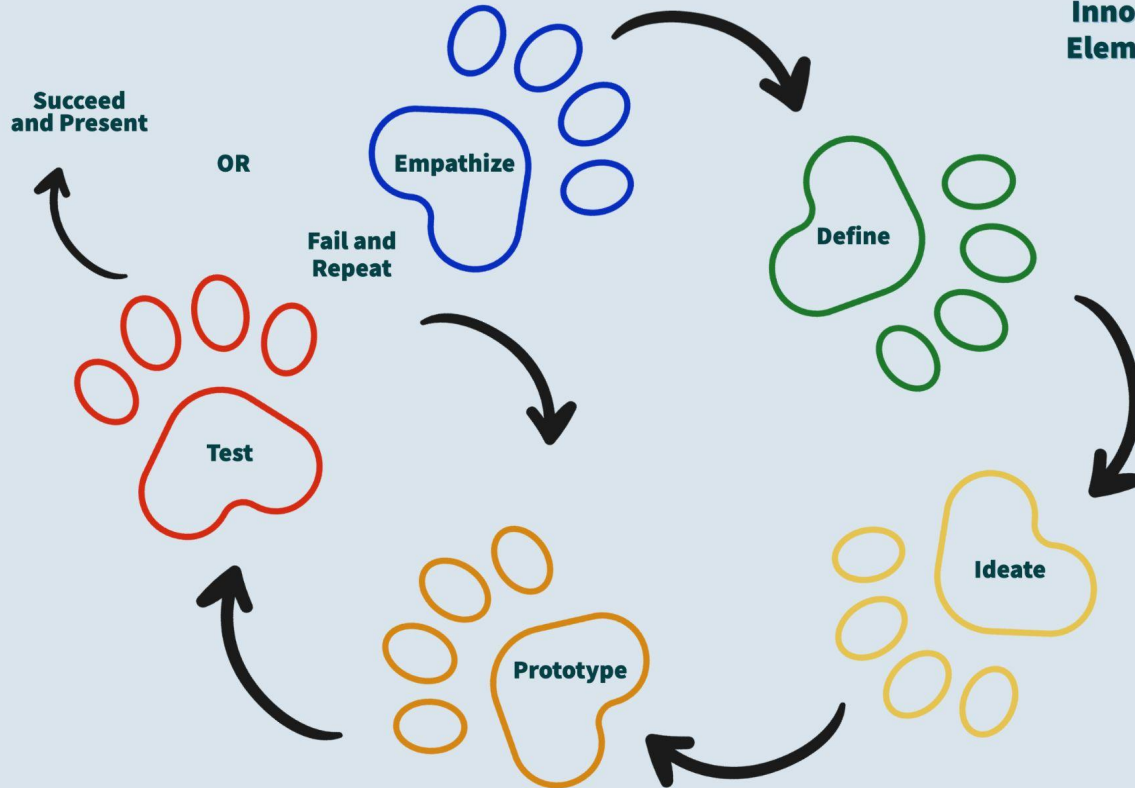
Design Thinking will help us achieve the purpose of our exemplary project: **To engage students in using creativity, collaboration, and innovation to identify and solve community problems.**

The next two slides show how we will present this process to students, staff, and families.

We are excited to grow the use and application of the Design Thinking framework at Innovation over time.

Design Thinking Framework

For
Innovation
Elementary



Design Thinking Framework



Explore & Empathize

Students will explore and experience situations to determine what's going well and what's not by asking mindful & respectful questions



Decide & Define

Based on what they've explored, students will work together to identify a problem that they can help with. They will ask themselves: Why is this problem important for us to solve?



Collaborate to Ideate

Students will collaboratively brainstorm and come up with as many creative solutions as possible, while respectfully considering all perspectives and feasibility.



Create a Prototype

Students will build an experimental model of their innovative solution to the problem. They might have to go through this phase multiple times to implement adjustments. The model could take various forms.



Test & Share

Students will implement their plan and gather feedback on the results. They will reflect on this feedback and on its impact on the problem. Finally, they will determine their next steps.