Myron B. Thompson Academy
A New Century Public Charter School
Honolulu, Hawaii

SOCIAL PODS,
COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS
AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT
An examination of Teaching and Learning leads to Curriculum Redesign
TEACHING MATTERS
Middle School Redesign

Creating Online Student Leaders—grade 7

- Content: What is an island?
- Technology skills: contextualized
- Collaboration: social pods
- Instruction: interdisciplinary
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM 1</th>
<th>TERM 2</th>
<th>TERM 3</th>
<th>Term 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Creating Online Leaders:</em></td>
<td>Language Arts 7A</td>
<td>Language Arts 7B</td>
<td>Language Arts (Literary Magazine)</td>
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<td>interdisciplinary course</td>
<td>History of the Hawaiian Kingdom</td>
<td>Pacific Islands</td>
<td>OR</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Science 7A</td>
<td>(social studies)</td>
<td>(social studies)</td>
<td>Science</td>
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<td></td>
<td>General Science 7B</td>
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<td>(environmental science)</td>
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<td>Math 7A</td>
<td>Math 7A</td>
<td>Math 7B</td>
<td>History/Math Practicum: Math 7B</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Elective (s)</td>
<td>Elective (s)</td>
<td>Health</td>
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<td>OR</td>
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<td>Credit Recovery</td>
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<td>Elective (s)</td>
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# 8th grade curriculum 2011-12

**TERM 1**
- U.S. History; Social Studies 8A
- Language Arts 8A
- Oral Communication

**TERM 2**
- Math 8A
- Science 8A

1.5 credits

**TERM 3**
- U.S. History; Social Studies 8B
- Language Arts 8B
- Math 8B
- Science 8B

1 credit

**TERM 4**
- Debate
  - Language Arts
  - Social Studies
  - Science

.5 credit

- Community P.E.
- Additional Electives

- Credit Recovery options

Debate Camp
Collaboration and Sharing Tools

Google Docs

Wimba
Hope: I chose to support Chicago because the whole reason why we have the right to bear guns is to protect ourselves from the government if they abuse power. I don't think it's a good idea for the military to only have the right to have guns, because that would create the government to have more power over us, and we wouldn't really have equal rights. Sure, people abuse the rights to bear guns, but if you think about it, it's probably because they're uneducated about why we have guns and about the amendments.

Bryce-Lynn: I did not support Chicago, or McDonald. Chicago wanted to keep guns to defend them selves from any threats such as thief's. They also disobeyed the second amendment. All people were allowed to have guns, as stated in the Bill of rights. McDonald on the other hand wanted to banned guns. This was because the government would protect them from opposing threats. Also when guns were allowed crime increased.

Tiger: I chose to support McDonald because the Second Amendment gives us to right to bear firearms. It is unconstitutional for any state to ban any kind of firearm, including handguns. Chicago is not following the Bill of Rights.

Julia- I chose to support McDonald because Chicago is not obeying the second amendment of the United States Constitution. The second amendment, also part of the Bill of Rights, allows people the right to “bare arms”. Therefore, Chicago’s handgun ban is unconstitutional because it abridges people’s rights.
On page 39, the author suggests that maybe we already have too many laws. Does the group feel this is true? Why or why not? (Your group may take a vote.)

**Group C** - We feel that the government has many laws, but it is there to protect us from harm. Although many may feel that so many laws are hindering and "keeping us in a cage," those laws provide our freedom and give us rights to do every day things. We are glad that there is a lengthy process to pass a law simply because some are unnecessary to my opinion. But other than that, we feel that the laws are more good than they are bad.
Student Evaluations and Ownership
“I would strongly recommend the Carrying Capacity assignment. I think this because it required everyone to work together, and do accurate research. It was also very educational for me, I learned a lot not only about the problems, but solutions too. “

“The teambuilding and group assignments, like answering the subsidiary questions were great because not only did they help us with working better in a group, but they also taught us how to work on Google docs and presentations in a real collaborative assignment.”
“I think I did work really hard. All the research was difficult. If I was not focused, but just relaxing and slacking off, I would have not succeeded in attaining my goal, to have straight A's. I really enjoy all the comments that my teacher provided for my submitted assignments. I can't help myself but keep going back and forth on my graded assignments, because it gives me encouragement to do better and look forward to the next assignment. Going back to all my responses, I think I need to keep working on my grammar.”
Week 8: September 13-17

Monday, September 13
Submit your final draft of the future project. Read Caddie Woodlawn: Chapters 1-4

Tuesday, September 14
Read Caddie Woodlawn: Chapters 5-9
Complete the Caddie Woodlawn Voice Thread

Wednesday, September 15
Read Caddie Woodlawn: Chapters 10-14
View the Essay choices and complete one of the questions. (Due today.)

Thursday, September 16
Read Caddie Woodlawn: Chapters 15-19

Friday, September 17
Read Caddie Woodlawn: Chapters 20-24
Read Background on the real-life Caddie Woodlawn
Complete the Life on the American Frontier assignment

Tell me what I did to help you learn and develop your skills this semester. Be specific. I think the Live Classes and “The Plan” helped me the most this semester. The Live Classes give students an opportunity to better understand the given assignments. “The Plan” helps outline exactly what students need to read and write, and helps very much if there are many assignments. “The Plan” should be included in every course.
Results
As 6th graders

Conventions & Skills 67%
Reading Comprehension 56%
Literary Response & Analysis 22%

2008-2009 Hawaii State Assessment
As 7th graders

- Conventions & Skills: 78%
- Reading Comprehension: 89%
- Literary Response & Analysis: 67%

2009-2010
As 8th graders

- Approaches Proficiency: 18%
- Meets Proficiency: 29%
- Exceeds Proficiency: 53%

2010-2011
Lessons Learned...
Q&A