

Social Pods, Collaborative Projects and Student Engagement

Sharon Abrigo and Elizabeth Gianfrancisco

Myron B. Thompson Academy

USA

msabrigo@ethompson.org

msgianfrancisco@ethompson.org

Myron B. Thompson Academy, an online/blended charter school, has redesigned its middle school program so that students work in groups for many assignments and projects. Students on four major islands work collaboratively using Google apps and advanced technology tools to solve problems and present their findings. Test results have risen dramatically as a result of the integrated curriculum, teacher best practices, and student engagement in the courses. Students have been given the opportunity to evaluate the courses at the end of each term, and their feedback has been invaluable in the refining assignments.

Myron B. Thompson Academy believes in sharing resources and knowledge. This best practice session will give audience members access to the types of strategies we use as well as to some of the course material.