



Growing Into Inquiry

Definition: Inquiry is a process of learning or a way of knowing. It is “an investigative process that engages students in answering questions, solving real world problems, confronting issues, or exploring personal interests.” *Pappas and Teppe*. It embraces an educational philosophy responding directly to national emphasis on high standards, brain research, 21st Century Skills, and productive pedagogy. Students are involved in a cycle of questioning, investigating, verifying and generating. *Harada and Yoshina*

Rationale:

- **INQUIRY works.** Task driven, teacher directed, static research leads to low motivation, transfer of facts, sometimes plagiarism, short term factual information without connections, depth, new understanding.
- **Meaning, relevance, engagement, depth, understanding, formative knowledge in the content area are outcomes of INQUIRY.**
- Research correlates improved student performance in the process and products of INQUIRY based learning in part due to:
 - Connection to PRIOR KNOWLEDGE, BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE, affective area, QUESTIONING, FOCUS, personal meaning and relevance.
 - Products that incorporate original conclusions, thinking, transformation of text vs. transfer of text, deep understanding, mastery of content knowledge, reading and writing as tools.
 - Collaboration of teacher and school library media specialist, social interaction with teachers and peers, substantive conversation.
 - Ongoing assessment for improvement, reflection, intervention at critical points for target skill development, instruction in information literacy.
 - The construction of meaning, synthesis of new understandings, and sharing of products that demonstrate these things.

Expectations:

- Teacher/librarian pairs will share ideas for areas of compelling content that will serve as a platform for collaborative planning of an INQUIRY based learning experience.
- A quick review of the performance indicators in the Capital Region BOCES School Library System Information Fluency Curriculum, which is INQUIRY based, will focus on the elements of inquiry based learning for a planned unit.
- Print and electronic resources and individual conferencing will be provided to guide implementation of INQUIRY BASED Learning.
- Inquiry based unit plans will be shaped in a collaborative partnership that optimizes the special expertise of the content teacher and the teacher librarian.

GOALS: Learners who are critical thinkers, effective communicators, quality producers, competent users of technology, truth seekers.