

what.

i³, pronounced "i-cubed," is a teaching and learning venture of the Menlo Park City School District in Silicon Valley. Through **i³**, MPCSD is providing a laboratory environment where learner-centered, teacher-driven innovation in public education can be dreamt, designed, tested, and scaled. **i³** consists of The **5 Elements**—Learner-Centered, Evidenced & Competency Based, Meaningful Work, Student Wellness & Agency, and Collaboration for Learning (see back page for more detail). The **5 Elements** provide the destination. The teachers and leaders, informed by experience & feedback and supported with resources & empowerment, determine the journey.

why.

The **i³** community exists for the sole purpose of ensuring that **all students** can achieve beyond their dreams AND are consistently engaged in learning throughout their school experience. The driving question of **i³** is *"If given the right conditions, support, and encouragement, how might we more quickly and foundationally change the public school learning experience so that all students can reach their potential?"* Innate design flaws in public education's delivery model have become a barrier to achievement and engagement for all students. With its highly talented educators and history of innovation, MPCSD is a fertile proving ground to push the envelope and see what new approaches will bear fruit for more students.



imagine + inspire + innovate

MENLO PARK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Menlo Park City School District has committed one-time and grant funds to create the space for teachers to redesign learning around The **5 Elements**, without impacting the district's long-term budget. However, the reality is that the innovation around the **i³** Elements requires more. Educators need more time to plan, personalize, and collaborate. Educators need more space to take risks and learn from mistakes. Educators need parents, colleagues, administrators, and the community to trust them to lead us to a new reality. Educators need 'the system' to get out of their way. Educators need your help.

Our students don't have time to waste. Each child gets one shot at 2nd grade...or 5th...or 8th. It's got to be good. Public school educators are eager to be entrusted with the resources and opportunity to reimagine educational delivery models. Menlo Park City School District has the tenacity, creativity, and perseverance to adapt and build new models...starting yesterday. Public schools enroll over 90% of America's children; this is where investment should be made for the greatest impact on our future leaders, workers, and participants in our democracy. The public school educators in MPCSD are ready to lead the way toward a better education experience for all students.

how.

when.

Learner-Centered

Evidence & Competency Based

Meaningful Work

Student Wellness & Agency

Collaboration for All

Learning within i³ centers on the individual and collective needs, interests, and strengths of our students, as expressed in the Learner Profile: students Learn with Purpose; Connect and work with others; and Explore and improve the world.

i³ students are afforded multiple opportunities and avenues to demonstrate mastery of the learning targets and Learner Profile aims. Real-time learning data guides student learning, indicating when further instruction or greater extension is needed.

i³ teachers provide meaningful work and deeper learning. Teachers design and execute high-quality, inquiry-based experiences aligned to the curriculum, as well as individualized practice that adds value to learning.

i³ students own their learning and set rigorous goals for their academic & social emotional growth. Teachers support the growth of cognitive skills and self-directed learning behaviors through modeling, mentoring, and regular feedback.

The i³ community is a place where fresh and promising education ideas can blossom. The i³ initiative exists as a resource for all MPCSD teachers, amplifying the effects of the best practices developed.

•• What the Elements Look Like in Practice: ••



Learner-Centered means that students are provided greater voice and choice in their learning, as well as greater ownership and responsibility by demonstrating learning in ways that are meaningful to them. They might choose whether they work alone or with partners, and even where they work. They know and can show the degree to which they have achieved personal and collective goals.

In an **Evidence and Competency Based System**, students have freedom within larger curricular units to move forward or go deeper as they demonstrate mastery, rather than being confined to move when the teacher or class is ready. When students don't achieve mastery the first time, they keep working at it. Letter grades are replaced with actionable feedback based on what the student knows and can do related to the learning targets.



Meaningful Work can be seen in practice when learning experiences are personally relevant to students and connect to real-world issues, such as advocating for a community plaza for families in a local land-development project or educating neighbors about the harmful effects of pesticides on honeybees. Learning is driven by relatable questions and inquiry. Homework, when there is any, is primarily reserved for students to progress on their individualized learning goals.

Student Wellness & Agency means that i³ students track their own progress, meeting regularly with teachers for feedback and determining next steps. Students share evidence of progress toward goals at conferences *they* lead. Students learn more about themselves as people, how *they* learn, the power of self-advocacy, and how to mindfully navigate their world.



Collaboration for All means that the educators within i³ are learners themselves. They test new approaches from the perspective of students, collaborate on their units, and share failures and best practices for the benefit of the entire learning community. Teachers value, use, and collaborate around data, allowing the feedback to tell a story about successes and opportunities.

