

# CREATED BY TEACHERS, FOR TEACHERS.

Our approach to teaching puts whole-child development at the forefront of the educational experience. It's also rooted in the science of how children learn best and designed to drive **student engagement**, **strong student-teacher relationships**, and **meaningful learning**.

This program also equips our teachers with comprehensive tools and resources to support every student to reach their potential—both in the classroom and beyond.

## INSIDE THE CLASSROOM

A hands-on curriculum—with a focus on projects based on real-world scenarios, group work, and mentoring—helps students put what they're learning into action.

### Student engagement

- Teachers help foster an environment where students feel invested in their learning.
- Teachers give students a deeper understanding of what they're learning and why they're learning—and in the way each student learns best.
- Students feel empowered to take ownership of their own learning progress, motivating them to stay engaged.

### Student-teacher relationships

- Teachers cultivate deeper connections with students using tools and strategies that give them a better understanding of their students as learners and as people.
- Teachers tailor their teaching to every student's specific needs through thoughtful mentoring sessions and group workshops.
- More meaningful and productive interactions take place, creating a dynamic learning environment.

### Meaningful learning

- Instead of simply memorizing information, students focus on developing a strong grasp of class material and effective application of key skills, such as critical analysis and communication.
- Students learn from a curriculum that helps them demonstrate a strong grasp of concepts and key skills before progressing—students move forward once they have shown they understand what they've learned.
- Students see how they're learning applies to their personal interests, future success, and life outside of school.

## HOW IT WORKS

There are three components that guide this approach to teaching:

### Mentoring

Teachers play an additional role as mentors to their students, providing support through weekly 1:1 meetings. Mentors help students identify how to improve progress in their classes and overcome challenges. Mentors also help students develop effective learning strategies, behaviors, and a mindset they can apply in the classroom and to personal goals.

### Projects

Teachers show students how their learning is relevant to life outside of school through projects based on real-world scenarios. Students demonstrate the application of real-world skills, such as working effectively with a team and contributing to their community through these hands-on, peer-to-peer projects.

### Self-Direction

Teachers help students develop habits associated with lifelong learning, such as the ability to set and follow through on short- and long-term goals, self-awareness, and stress management. Students, parents, and teachers also have access to an online learning platform that provides them with a detailed view of student progress.

## SUCCESS STORIES

### Blackstone Valley Prep High School | Cumberland, RI

In their second year, 11th graders in this Rhode Island school were 91% more likely than their statewide peers to be college and career ready in both literacy and math on the SATs<sup>1</sup>. That helped them score an average of 108 points higher on the SATs than students who weren't in the program.

### Handley Middle School | Roanoke, AL

This rural public school saw a 63% decrease in discipline referrals<sup>2</sup> for 6th graders. Participating students also outperformed their peers on standardized tests, averaging 28 points higher.

### Dexter Community Schools | Dexter, MI

The University of Michigan conducted a study<sup>3</sup> that found students in the district earned significantly higher scores in reading and math than peers who weren't in the program. Participating students also reported higher persistence, self-management, and future aspirations.

## WHAT TEACHERS ARE SAYING

(2019 survey of 1,700+ teachers)



**95%** said this teaching approach positively impacted their students



**94%** said this teaching approach made them better teachers

### TEACHERS ALSO REPORTED

IMPROVED  
academic  
growth



GREATER  
STUDENT  
ENGAGEMENT



INCREASED  
STUDENT  
ATTENDANCE



MORE POSITIVE  
STUDENT  
INTERACTIONS

[1] <https://blog.summitlearning.org/2018/05/case-study-blackstone-valley/> • [2] <https://blog.summitlearning.org/2018/05/case-study-handley-middle-school/>

[3] [https://www.dexterschools.org/uploaded/board\\_of\\_education/meeting\\_packets/Jan-Feb-Mar\\_2019/Summit\\_Learning\\_Final\\_Report\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.dexterschools.org/uploaded/board_of_education/meeting_packets/Jan-Feb-Mar_2019/Summit_Learning_Final_Report_FINAL.pdf)