

THE CASE FOR STJ LEAD SCHOOL

BACKGROUND & ACADEMIC RESOURCES



THE GOAL

The St. John School's LEAD approach was developed by Scott Osbourn, Rachel Bausch, Stephanie Bowman and Rob Jacklin after extensive external research and planning. Their goal was to fill the unmet educational needs of St. John School's current and future students in a way that was leading-edge and research-backed, yet distinct from other schools in the community. Here's their story.

HOW IT HAPPENED

Like most innovations, it was an evolution grounded in hard work. As St. John School leaders, we were keeping up with the latest trends in education and studying modern concepts, such as:

- Project-based learning (PBL)
- Individualized learning
- Social emotional learning (SEL)
- Flexible seating
- Standards-based grading

The approaches were exciting – and they were working. As we saw the benefits of these concepts and dug deeper, we realized no other school in West County was offering these advanced yet well-founded educational approaches. Kids were missing out!

Fueled by the potential, we began conversations with leading educators. We identified respected schools that were “doing school differently” using these educational concepts, which are supported in the Future Ready Schools framework (below). To see for ourselves and meet with the other schools' leadership, in spring 2018 our St. John School team visited:

MOSAIC School in the Mehlville School District (St. Louis, MO)

<https://mosaic.mehlilleschooldistrict.com>

Rohan Woods School (St. Louis, MO)

<https://www.rohanwoods.org/>

Anastasis Academy (Denver, CO)

<https://www.anastasisacademy.com/>

Lewis and Clark Elementary School (Kansas City, MO)

<https://www.lps53.org/lc>

We were impressed – and convinced a similar model would benefit St. John School's current students and attract future families.

Applying our experience in education and knowledge of St. John School, we took “the best of the best” of what we had learned to custom-create what is now STJ LEAD.

DID YOU KNOW?

Demand for LEAD-like learning is on the rise. Mehlville School District's similar Mosaic School in South St. Louis County received 554 applications for 250 available student slots.

WHY STJ LEAD WORKS

STJ LEAD is addressing an identified need in our society that other schools are just now creating task forces to examine. We are already delivering on this type of education, and we are excited STJ LEAD focuses on skills and content development that allow students to become leaders and contributors in today's world.

The values and driving principles of STJ LEAD are founded on timeless truths. STJ LEAD does not adjust standards or content; it adjusts the way students interact with content. With the research on SEL/PBL, it is clear these practices are not a fad.

STJ LEAD is ahead of the curve, and we believe that position will give our students the same advantage, in school and in life.

RECOMMENDED READING

If you would like to learn more about the academic research that supports the educational concepts we factored into STJ LEAD, following are some resources for you to check out.

Books / Authors

Marching off the Map

Tim Elmore

Missional Moonshots

Bernard Bull

LAUNCH and *EMPOWER*

A.J. Juliani / John Spencer

The Innovators Mindset

George Couros

The PBL Playbook

A.J. Juliani

Formative Five

Thomas Hoerr

Learning Transformed

Thomas Murray / Eric Sheninger

Publications

Educational Leadership

John Spencer writings

<https://medium.com/@spencerideas/three-ways-to-boost-collaboration-in-student-projects-52d7d5da0adb>

George Couros writings <https://georgecouros.ca/blog/archives/6612>

Websites

FRS (Future Ready School) <https://dashboard.futurereadyschools.org/framework>

EdWeek

- http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/rulesforengagement/2018/11/students_say_schools_arent_giving_them_the_skills_they_need_to_succeed_after_graduation_survey_finds.html?cmp=soc-edit-tw
- <https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2018/05/02/whats-actually-working-in-the-classroom.html>

Edutopia

https://www.edutopia.org/article/will-letter-grades-survive?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=socialflow

SEL (Social Emotional Learning) <https://casel.org/what-is-sel/>

Associations

ASCD (Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development) <http://www.ascd.org/Default.aspx>