

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Teaching, Learning, and Leading redesigned the middle school program this summer to focus on Project Based Learning, Coding, and Design, in addition to the traditional basic skills instruction in ELA, Math, and ELD. DeJean and Helms offered themed Academies for enrichment and deeper learning. 6th grade students attended summer school on the Middle School campuses.

At DeJean, our STEM-themed school, students had a period of Design, where they were able to design and fabricate items starting with their own imagination and ending with Fab Lab production. Additionally, students had a period of Fabrication. There, they learned the science of sound and sound waves, and soldered together their own working speaker. They also created the casing to hold the speaker.

At Helms, the theme was technology integration. Students learned and practiced coding in one elective. In the other elective, they practiced Project Based Learning by starting with a question of interest to themselves (eg. How Can We Support Gun Control?), researching the issue, then presenting their findings to their classmates using a variety of digital media. Students at both schools received skills support in math and English using Edmentum's Accucess platform as well as direct instruction.



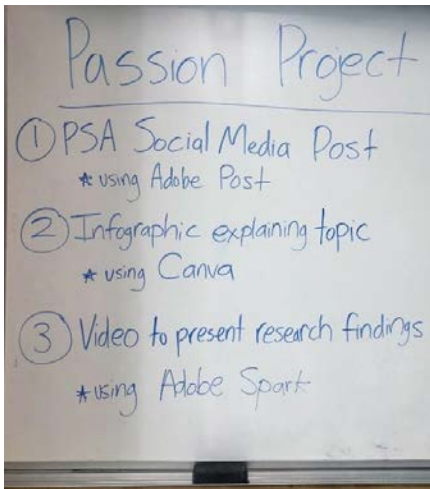
7th and 8th graders create posters



Students connect speakers to their circuit boards.
about the engineering design process.

In the Project-Based Learning elective, students practiced using several digital design applications to represent their learning.

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PBL teachers helped students build confidence to share their work by starting with a 'Who am I' Google Slides project.

At our Elementary sites, teachers further innovated, introducing students to inquiry based instruction aligned to Next Generation Science standards (NGSS) using the Mystery Science digital platform and hands on Science materials. Students were taught the writing process from pre-writing through publication with the Lucy Calkins Writing Units of Study. Mindset Works curriculum was implemented to build confidence and an academic mindset. Elementary students also further developed basic skills in ELA and Math using District adopted curricular resources. For images from each of our sites, click here [Summer Learning 2018](#).

Congratulations and appreciations to our Summer School Academic coaches, who are teacher leaders who step up to coach and lead their peers during the summer program. Our summer school site administrators did a fantastic job leading safe, engaging, rigorous, and fun Summer Learning for WCCUSD students!

Public Records Log – Marcus Walton

Included in this week's memo is the log of public records requests received by the district. If you have any questions, please contact me.