

64.6%

of students say that they prefer classes that include Project Based Learning over classes that use more traditional methods.

61.3%

of students say that they are in at least one class that uses Project Based Learning.



42.6%

of students say that Project Based Learning increases their understanding of the subject being taught.

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Information on infograph was taken from a survey regarding Project Based Learning of 115 Liberty North high school students.

project based **LEARNING**

A closer look at one teaching style rising in use and creating division

It can be a controversial subject of which learning style is the best to teach in schools, as all students learn differently. Project Based Learning is one of many styles that are debated, but is currently widely taking the spotlight in education. Project Based Learning allows students to learn and improve upon their skills through experience and practice, as opposed to traditional learning methods, that might not actively engage students in their environment.

“Project Based Learning is when you provide students the opportunity to get hands-on experience in real-world situations that gives them an authentic audience as opposed to a mere classroom exercise that won’t go beyond the teacher’s red pen,” English teacher Kimberly Brownlee said.

These interactive projects allow for students to venture out of their traditional school learning environment, through new experiences and opportunities. Because of this, Project Based Learning is heavily student led.

“The fact that the entire class is a project allows us to go into a great deal of depth, more so than we would if the class was composed of multiple smaller projects. For projects, like ours, it allows us to go beyond the surface of how can we fix it for short term and create a solution,” senior Kaylee Chase said.

Project Based Learning has been theorized to help give students the chance to actively participate in their learning, and provides a set of skills that can be used out of the classroom. “We’re not the only source of information for the students while they are working. They learn how to use sources to find the information for themselves and build their knowledge base that way,” science teacher Julie Hustoft said.

Even though schools have widely implemented an emphasis on Project Based Learning, but some teachers are still hesitant about the validity of the learning style.

“It can be challenging to meet student’s different needs, and make sure that they are completing the objectives. They can get on so many different ‘wavelengths’, and you don’t know if they’re getting the basics or the content or if they’re just getting the project,” English teacher Sara Turner said.

Still, students use Project Based Learning to produce a thorough product, typically by solving a problem or developing ideas of their own. This combines several learning methods into a practical way to develop a student’s knowledge.

“I think that Project Based Learning answers the question: ‘Why do I have to do this?’ It shows them an authentic purpose and an authentic audience, and it really, for teachers, ensures that they can answer that ‘Why?’ question,” Brownlee said.

