

It's Life.

Teachers at North are implementing Project Based Learning to give students real world learning opportunities.

Design by Kayl Auch & Catherine Hemenway // Story by Ingrid Weaver
// Photos by Kari Tott



Based on a survey on
236 students

Project Based Learning is a method of teaching in which students are responsible for working to solve a complex question or challenge. At Liberty North, many teachers can choose to incorporate different projects or activities into their classrooms. By using project based learning in class, teachers allow students to lead their own learning.

“When you’re doing projects and project based learning, it can kind of take on a life of its own because it’s student led and student centered learning,” FACS teacher Traci Silvey said.

While opinions on project based learning can vary by teacher, project based learning can still present a challenge for some classes. Integrating project based learning into international language classes can be difficult because of the speaking abilities the students have.

“At the level [the students] are on it’s very difficult because they don’t really have the language skills quite yet. By level three they’re reading texts that are of high school level or even college level and they understand them, but their writing skills and their speaking skills are way lower than that. There is a disconnect between the two, so I’ve introduced some bits and pieces of [project based learning] by mainly focusing on making the assessments and the tests that we do here a little bit more authentic,” French teacher Mimi Jones said.

Project based learning plays an integral role at Liberty North by helping students discover what kind of learning helps them the most and provides many creative opportunities.

“Students are using more higher order thinking skills and they’re applying their knowledge to situations that they’ll be able to remember. When you learn something in context you retain it for longer, plus when you’re hitting that higher level of thinking you’re doing your job as a teacher,” Spanish teacher Megan Walker said. ■