

Why Mathematically Proficient Students Will **Rule** The World

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Harvard
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Ukraine/Russia Conflict

General Motors Recall

Old meat supplied to
McDonalds and KFC in
China

Crisis on the Border

Israel/Gaza Conflict

Climate Change and Air Pollution

Homicides in Chicago

How to right/tow Costa Concordia

Making the salary cap work

Detroit Water Shut-offs

Malaysian Jet Crash

Wildfire in Washington

The World is Full
of **Problems.**

*We are in the
business of making
Problem Solvers.*



Learning **Environments** Matter



What kind of **environments** help students learn how to **solve problems**?



21st Century Survival Skills

Effective oral and written communication

Assessing and analyzing information

Agility and adaptability

Critical thinking and problem solving

Standards of Mathematical Practice

Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.

Reason abstracting and quantitatively

Use appropriate tools strategically

Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them

Collaboration
across networks and
Leading by
influence

Initiative and Entrepreneurship

Curiosity and
Imagination



Where
do *these*
fit in?

Three Examples

1. Ambitious

2. Stretch

3. Monday



Inflatables Project



Students struggle with *the same challenges* adults struggle with when they tackle these problems:



Teaching Students how to Solve **Important** Problems



- Daily Progress Logs
- Group Roles
- Constant Feedback
- Accountability







The Inflatables Project is a real world problem because the **way** students must work to complete the project mirrors the **way** they must work to solve problems in the real world.

[HOME](#)[DESIGN](#)[PROCESS](#)[ANALYSES](#)[PHOTOS](#)

HOME

Welcome to our Inflatible Project Website. Here you will see how we, Lauryn M., Maria M., Lia N., and Julius M., collaborated to create a large inflatable solid for Mr. Hermann's 2014 7th period Geometry Class. We used skills and concepts learned during class mixed with our previous knowledge of design and creativity to compose this inflatable. Enjoy!



Photo by Nia Sims

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Public Health Strategy

Rural city of 1000 people. Any given individual has a .001 chance of contracting a disease in any given month. If gone untreated, an infected person will typically only live for 3 months.



Public Health Strategy



Test A: Detects disease 99% of the time. Falsely gives positive reading 2% of the time. Costs \$50.

Test B: Detects disease 93% of the time. Falsely gives positive reading 30% of the time. Costs \$15.

Treatment: If disease is caught within first month treatment is \$500 and is 90% effective. But, if caught in the second month, treatment is only 85% effective and costs \$1000.

You have \$240,000 to implement a testing and treatment strategy.

“...include relevant probability calculations and expected values...mathematical justification for your procedures. How much is your plan expected to cost? How many lives is your plan expected to save? Sacrifice? Make your mathematical and ethical assumptions clear and explicit.”





Present
and
defend
solution
to the
class

Which fits better:

A square peg in a round hole or a round peg in a square hole?



Credit: Tina Nocella



Authentic Learning Environment

“How do I do this?”

Teacher's
Puzzles

versus

World's
Problems

I don't know, what do
you think?

I *really* don't know... Let's
figure it out!

**Non-routine,
complex,
interesting,
important,
require
creativity, and
have stakes...**







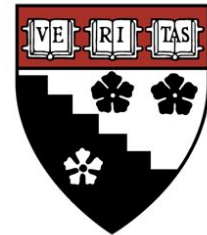
Complex Instruction Consortium
ICTM Social

Tonight- 7PM - 9PM
Plantain Room

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