



CREATIVE CURRICULUM WITH VERTICAL ALIGNMENT

PRESENTED BY

Teresa Diaz, Cindy Dailey & Suzanne Lauricella

A dream
you dream
together
is reality

— JOHN LENNON.

Last year's pilot program was developed as a part of Diaz's Hunterdon County Teacher of the Year platform in order to expose students to future paths in the arts through career and technical education. She is passionate about leading others into a fulfilling career in the arts and believes it's possible to obtain your dream job with the right knowledge, skill set, hard work and perseverance. She chose participants who embodied this same spirit and found great joy in working with everyone involved. The 2021-2022 "What's Your Dream?" program was a collaborative endeavor between Clinton Public School, Hunterdon County Polytech, and Full Sail University using a vertically aligned curriculum focusing on entertainment design.



Our teams worked together through Zoom meetings, interactive mood boards & a field trip visit to our studios at Hunterdon County Polytech.



Team members preparing their final presentations to Full Sail University.



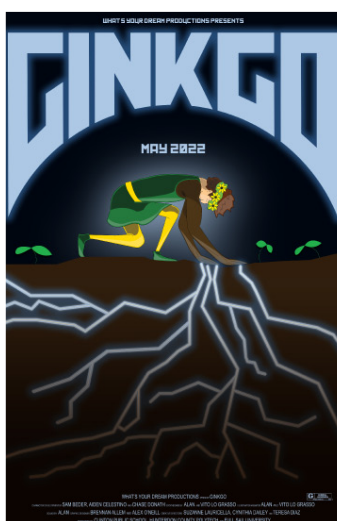
The "What's Your Dream?" program culminated with a red carpet event showcasing all of the work from each teams' creative process.



Each computer station featured the team's animatic running on a loop for participants to preview.



Our team members enjoyed an evening of food and fun! More than once was heard the comment... "I can't wait to come to Polytech!"



The inaugural "What's Your Dream?" program focused on Entertainment Design. The team of "Sage's City Quest" captured first place, chosen by Full Sail University professors.

Our teams consisted of future dreamers; illustrators, animators, graphic designers & writers to name a few!



THE 2021-2022 WHAT'S YOUR DREAM? TEAM

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Takeaways

Core Concepts to Implement

While we recognize that implementing the entire "What's Your Dream?" program as presented can be an arduous task, there are manageable core components that can be feasibly implemented into your classroom that will enhance the wonderful things that are already going on.

Careers in the Arts

Expose students to the numerous careers that they can obtain as a working artist. We are lucky to live in an area surrounded by Frenchtown, Clinton, Lambertville and New Hope. These towns are known to be artist havens. I'm sure in every town there are working artists in many different fields. Reach out to them and ask one to be a guest speaker in your classroom. Have students research the career ahead of time and prepare questions to ask. Follow up by researching what this type of artist/designer would be paid.

- Research the artists in your location, search the internet, visit galleries
- Survey your students' parents at the beginning of the year. It's quite possible that some of them work in a creative industry.
- Don't shy away from commercial artists and designers. It's rewarding to have a job in life that is creative where you can incorporate your passion, even if it's not producing art in the traditional manner that you teach. Including designers allows students to see that hundreds of things they encounter everyday were conceptualized, designed, and created by someone.

Collaboration

Find another school or company to collaborate with. Think about ways that students can work together with other students. One of the benefits that came out of the pandemic was the common usage of Zoom and Google Meets. Although your students may never want to be virtual again, the ease at which they can connect to others around the world virtually is beneficial to bringing people together. It's great to have students work on group/team projects in the classroom, it's another experience entirely to encourage students to work with strangers. They learn communication skills, how to present information, negotiate ideas, meet deadlines, accept critique, and revise work according to the team's best interests.

- Connect with another elementary, middle, or high school in your area. Maybe it's within your school district or county. Search for other AENJ members, you can start by talking with others at this conference!
- Work with another school throughout the country. Research schools who have a National Junior Art Honor Society or National Art Honor Society and find out who the advisor is. They might be more willing to work on a project with you.
- Partner with a local business. Many businesses and corporations encouraged their employees to give back to their communities. Find one that is interested in helping children use their art skills and creativity to solve real world problems or put their artwork on display.



Celebration

Working together is rewarding and doing good for the community is rewarding. We also believe having winners and rewarding them for their hard work is healthy and helps students to understand there is competition in the world and meeting attainable goals encourages teamwork.

- Exhibit your students' artwork and have the attendees vote for Best in Show or have local artists judge 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place in the different categories.
- Seek out county, state, and national competitions for your students to enter. Or organize a contest yourself, even at the school level. Having students submit their artwork to a contest pushes them to build confidence in their work. Our students grow through trial & error, success & failure. If we encourage them to put themselves out there during their academic years, imagine what they can do when they enter the workforce!
- Establish an Artist of the Month award or put a ribbon on the best piece of art from each project that students work on. Recognize artists the same way that academics gain Honor Roll status or athletes win the MVP award. Show there is value in the arts and that hard work pays off.



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