PBELL

Supporting Diverse Students Through Problem-Based Enhanced Language Learning (PBELL)

NSTA
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Presented by: Brittney Oden
thediverseclass@gmail.com
AGENDA

Introduction

What is PBELL?

PBELL and Supporting Diverse Learners

Resources/Q & A
INTRODUCTION

- Bachelors in Elementary and Special Ed from Arizona State University 2014
- Masters in Educational Psychology From Texas A&M 2019
- Taught a wide range of settings and abilities in Special Ed.
- Currently special ed instructional coach supporting high school self-contained special ed teachers.
- 2018 ASTA Middle School Teacher of the Year
- 2019 AZ CEC Teacher of the Year
- National Geographic Certified Educator
- Passionate about mentoring others to help them succeed, and bridging the gap for my students.
OBJECTIVE

• Educators will understand the principles that support PBELL.

• Educators will receive resources to implement PBELL in their own classrooms and tools to network with other educators who have implemented PBELL.
PBELL – What Is It?

- PBELL – Problem Based Enhanced Language Learning

- What does PBELL mean to you?

https://youtu.be/FVuIzG7KLj4
PBELL – What Is It?

- How did your ideas or the ideas of others align with the video from ASU’s iTeachELL grant team?
- What similarities and differences did you see between your ideas and the video?
PBELL – Definition

“Problem-based enhanced language learning is intentionally planning meaningful, problem-based lessons that also build high-level, discipline-specific language. The roots of problem-based learning are enhanced by: Intentionally planning for opportunities to develop and practice language including sheltering techniques to make content and language comprehensible. Infusing reading, writing, and speaking and listening into math, science and social studies content. Providing access to rigorous content through a PBL approach.”

Supporting ELL Students

• While student populations are increasingly changing, much of how we teach has stayed the same, leaving diverse learners behind.

• ASU’s iTeachELL grant looked at how to support English Language Learners. Giving 100% access to content to 100% of learners.

• One of the grant’s focus is to train teachers how to provide opportunities in every lesson in reading, writing, speaking & listening.
Supporting ELL Students

The inquiry based approach of PBELL, specifically, addresses the needs of ELLs by ensuring students have access to both content and language learning in parallel. This is accomplished by providing opportunities for students to read, write, speak, and listen throughout the PBELL experience and ensuring that scaffolds and supports are built in.

• iTeachELL Grant’s focus was ELL
• In 2016 I was introduced to PBELL through the grant.
• 2017, invited to be part of their “Program Enhancement Team”
• Invited to present at iTeachELL Stem Camp 2017, 2018, 2019
Can ELL strategies embedded in PBELL also support students receiving special education services?
Supporting ALL Diverse Learners?

- Observations
  - I wondered how could this support my students?
  - Receptive/Expressive Language challenges.
  - Cross-curricular, real-world learning.

- Shifting Focus to PBELL and Special Ed
  - PBELL Board
  - Collaborating as PBELL Citizen Scientists.
  - Mesa Public Schools Special Education PBELL Science Fair.
Supporting ALL Diverse Learners

- PBELL Board – Visual representation of students learning
Supporting ALL Diverse Learners

- Collaborating as PBELL Citizen Scientists
Supporting ALL Diverse Learners

• Collaborating as PBELL Citizen Scientists
Supporting ALL Diverse Learners

- Mesa Public Schools Special Education PBELL Science Fair

2017 Winners – Plastic Pollution

2018 Winners – Feeding People in Poverty
Language Acquisition

• How do you, or how can you, support language acquisition?
Language Acquisition

• Planning for language within PBELL
  • In PBELL every teacher is a language teacher
  • Plan for what language students would need to access the content.
  • Use language frames to teach, model, and support the language of academic discourse.
PBELL & Misconceptions

• It won’t be a structured lesson.

• I don’t have time.

• I won’t be able to teach all of my standards.

• My student’s don’t know how to do that, and I don’t have time to pre-teach everything.
Being Successful with PBELL

- Teachers still have lesson plans and guide the learning.

- Thoughtfully planned out PBELL doesn’t take up more time than traditional teaching. Remember, PBELL can be a stand alone lesson or a full month long unit. You can adjust PBELL to meet the needs of your students.

- With PBELL you are able to teach multiple standards across many core subject areas.

- Embed mini direct instruction lessons throughout your PBELL unit as needed.
Remote Learning

• What has been working?
• What hasn’t been working?
Being Successful with PBELL

Top 3 Tips

1. Jump in, don’t wait until your lesson is perfect. This first one is a learning curve for you AND your students.

2. Always make sure you are meeting curriculum outcomes through the project. Not using the project to just demonstrate learning at the end.

3. Reach out to your community. Bringing in experts helps make the authentic link for your students.
Being Successful with PBELL

Top 3 Digital Learning Tips

1. Have students connect and still work in small groups via breakout rooms in whatever online platform you are using. Building connections and relationships are still an important part to learning and collaborating.

2. Use collaborative websites or apps like Flipgrid, Mural, Explain Everything, Jamboard, Nearpod, and Trello.

3. Reach out to your community. Bringing in experts helps make the authentic link for your students. Utilize Zoom, Skype, and Google Meets to connect students to their community.
Resources

ASU iTeach ELL Grant
Engineering is Elementary
PBL Works
EduTopia

Academic Language Function Toolkit
Sweetwater Union High School District
Digital Resources

Blog/Podcast On Distance Learning PBL – John Spencer

7 Tech Tools for Supporting Online PBL

Getting Set Up for Collaboration In Online PBELL Units
Reflection - Q&A

- What can you take from our session and implement in your setting?
- How do you think this will support all learners?
- Q&A
Contact

• Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions. I would love to help you implement PBELL.

Brittney Oden
thediverseclass@gmail.com
Twitter @thediverseclass
Facebook The Diverse Classroom