**School profile** > CityLab High School, Dallas TX

**Mentor profile** > Kate Parsons, Principal, Da Vinci Design High School, El Segundo, CA

**Year-long goal** > Create a school-wide culture of project-based learning

**Focus areas** > Define what PBL means for school and craft authentic, interdisciplinary projects and experiences for students.

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**SCOPE AND SEQUENCE**

**Oct. ‘18 > Transforming Learning Conference @ DV Schools:** educator-led workshops & in-person mentor/team goal-setting and planning

**Nov. ‘18 - Jan. ‘19 > Mentor/Team calls:** Discussed the successes and struggles of PBL professional development. Mentor provided support for math and science PBL classes with two experienced math/science PBL teachers on the call who shared project ideas, resources, planning documents, interdisciplinary connections, etc. Mentor provided team with project planning tools and ideas for staff reading books.

**Feb. ‘19 > Partner school visits** to Chicago Tech Academy and GCE Lab School in Chicago & in-person mentor/team design time

**Mar. ‘19 - Apr. ‘19 > Mentor/Team calls:** Team debriefed the February visit and discussed next steps. With mentor guidance, team worked on school-wide project rubrics, project display, and a one-page document with an overview of the school’s mission, vision, core values and signature practices. Mentor supported team in running a new hiring process that allowed them to find the right candidates, and also support in planning for end-of-year events and projects.

**May ‘19 > Schools That Can Forum,** partner school visits, in-person mentor/team design time

**June ‘19 > Mentor/Team calls:** Support in preparing final presentation to TLC participants to share progress thus far. Participation in feedback protocol to elicit thinking around next steps and improvement while expanding authentic PBL schoolwide. Team worked with mentor during design time to craft end of year Exhibition (public display of PBL work) at school site. Mentor also provided resources around Freshman student experience upon request of team. Mentor provided impact report with documented progress and suggestions for next steps moving forward.
Feedback from the CityLab team >

“The Transforming Learning Incubator has been a great experience for our campus staff. It has been extremely helpful to observe how other schools have implemented a project-based curriculum. Everyone we have worked with has been more than willing to share their experiences and resources.”

Dustin Good, Social Studies Teacher

“The Incubator has given our new school the tools to be successful in implementing school-wide project based learning. The mentor-school relationship has been a tremendous asset.”

Lynn Smith, Principal

“The Incubator has been an invaluable experience for our staff and for our school - it has allowed us to draw on the vast knowledge of a host of educators who are successfully utilizing Project Based Learning, and it has allowed us to learn and grow based on their experiences and best practices. We are refining and rolling out a number of initiatives on our campus based on what we have discussed and observed with educators, students, and thought leaders at a number of schools across the country who are associated with this outstanding program.”

Peter Goldstein, Co-founder and Career and Technology Education Teacher

Reflections from Kate Parsons, Transforming Learning Incubator Mentor >

“Being a mentor in the Transforming Learning Collaborative was such a valuable and rewarding experience for me. The school site visits in other cities were a highlight as my team and I got to learn together during that time and all take something from the experience. In sharing best practices and facilitating big picture discussions for my TLC team, it allowed me to reflect on my own leadership and practices and enable me to grow as a leader during the process.”