

# Personalized Learning: A Leap of Faith

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July 24, 2017

## What we know as educators:



Not every child learns at the same speed



Students learn in different ways



Relationship is key to educating children




Traditional grading may not reflect learning



Students learn best when engaged



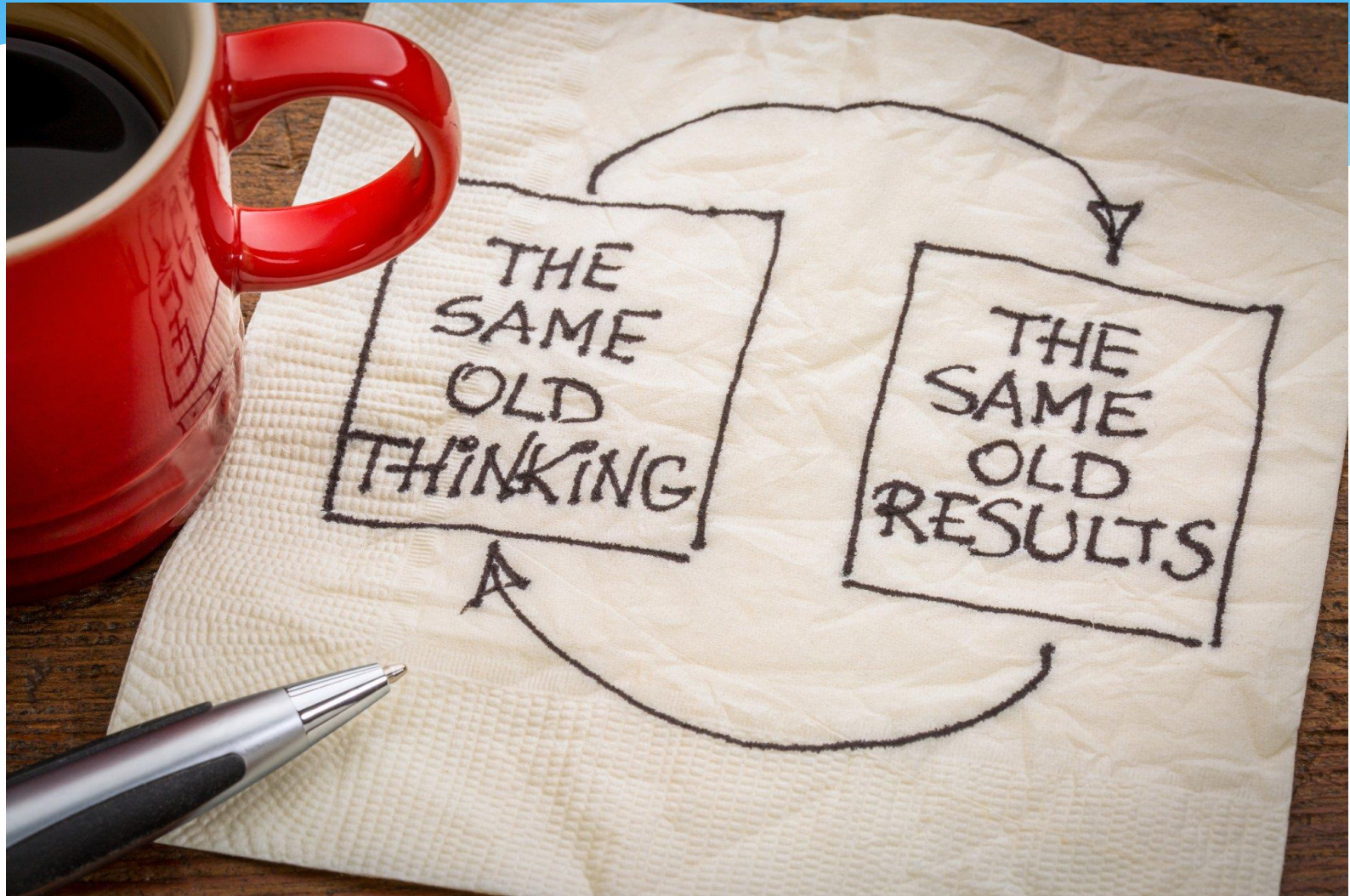
Standardized testing focuses on content,  
not learning



Schools are perfectly designed to get the results they are now getting. If we want different results, we must change the way we do things.

Quote from a variety of sources, including Tom Northup, W. Edwards Deming, Arthur Jones and others, though modified here.

# Why personalized learning?



# Because St. Regis students...

- \* Went off to college, but the vast majority did not stay beyond the first year – many didn't stay beyond the first semester.
- \* Showed growth from Fall to Spring, but a large percentage of them were not proficient.
- \* Were not equipped to think critically.
- \* Were not college or career ready.

# Because personalized learning...

- \* Gives students control of their learning
- \* Addresses the needs of gifted and at-risk students
- \* Provides a variety of access points to the content
- \* Teaches habits of success...the soft skills
- \* Instills grit and perseverance
- \* Assesses content and cognitive skills
- \* Builds relationships
- \* Empowers teachers and students

## \* Differentiation, individualization, personalization – What's the difference?

- \* Differentiation meets a student's need by changing the content, process or product.
- \* Individualization meets a student's need by giving him/her control of the pace of the topic and when to show mastery.
- \* Personalization does both by allowing students to pursue authentic, complex problems.

**\* Any profound change starts with a strategic plan and the courage to see it through.**

- \* The St. Regis Strategic Plan calls for:**
  - \* 1:1 computer access**
  - \* Personalized learning**
  - \* Project-based, critical thinking curriculum**



# Summit Model

Personalized Learning provides time for four key areas:

- \* Projects
- \* Personalized Learning
- \* Mentoring
- \* Real-life experiences



# Attributes of Personalized Learning:

**Voice** – students have a say in the what and the how of learning early in the learning process.

**Co-creation** – students work with the teacher to develop a challenge, problem, or idea; clarify what is being measured; establish how the learning will be measured; and outline a learning plan to achieve the desired results.

**Social construction** – learning happens through relationships with others as they theorize and investigate common learning goals.

**Self-discovery** – students reflect on the learning process, where to go next, and learn about themselves as a learner.

# Summit Learning Platform

**Projects – develops critical thinking and problem solving skills; projects can be designed by student and teacher (voice, co-creation, social construction)**

**PLT – develops the content knowledge/skills required; students control the pace of learning (voice)**

**Mentoring – develops Habits of Success (soft skills students need to be successful); advocate of student; helps student develop growth mindset (self-discovery).**

**Real-life experiences – passion projects for students – they co-create a plan of study of an area of interest (voice, co-creation, social construction, self-discovery)**

# Impact of PL

Students have taken more responsibility for their learning.

Students have stated they feel more confident in going to college.

Students have stated that they have learned more this year than previously because they had to master the content to move on.

Students are asking if they can go to summer school to get ahead on next year.

Five students took their first AP exam. 1 scored a 4, the others a 2.

The procrastinators are developing goals to meet deadlines – and meeting them!

Teachers feel they are more effective and better teachers.

# In House vs Platforms

## In House

- Takes a lot of time to find resources
- Time to link resources with activities
- Time to develop learning steps to develop skills
- Time to develop rubrics

## Platform

- Platforms have resources, content ready to go
- Teachers have time to learn how to personalize lessons
- Students can dive in
- Standards-based grading
- Some cost annual subscriptions

# Montana Schools implementing Personalized Learning

St Regis – 2017-18 second year of implementation for grades 6-12; 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> being added

Darby – 2016-17 Spark implementation at high school; moved to Summit for 2017-18

Fort Benton – 2017-18 Summit implementation at high school pilot?

Bozeman Alternative School – implementing Summit '17-'18

Conrad – 2017-18 ITS Learning implementation grades 7-12

Billings School District is looking at Summit for an Alternative Program.

## Share the Knowledge:

- Share the research through Google Drive
- Share through tours of St. Regis Schools
- Work together to provide professional development through 21<sup>st</sup> CLI
  - Design Thinking
  - PBL
  - Summit Platform In-depth
  - *Data Analysis for Continuous School Improvement*

# Transforming education begins with us!

## Resources:

Domenech, D., Sherman, M & Brown, J.L. (2016). Personalized 21<sup>st</sup> century education: A framework for student success.

Kallick, B and Zmuda, A. (2017). Students at the Center: Personalized learning with habits of mind

Rickabaugh, J. (2016). Tapping the power of personalized learning: A roadmap for school leaders.