

Dear Administrative Leadership team at Kriewald Road School of the Arts,

As we jump into this new venture of becoming a fully immersive arts campus, and introducing the district's latest initiative of Project Based Learning, we have the opportunity to introduce our students to a wide range of resources and ways to utilize technology. Students will be tasked in creating projects that exhibit their learning through cross curricular methods and with an arts connection. Teachers are being asked to track their progress of meeting state standards within this new learning style. We, as leaders of this new endeavor, are responsible for ensuring that their learning is assessed, tracked, and reported.

As part of this new journey, what better way to enhance the learning experience for our students, as well as allow them to see the value and importance of what and how they are learning, than to guide them in developing their own ePortfolio. Creating a digital, "living document" that our students can actively reflect on and share, would help in preparing them for future opportunities. Imagine, students being able to compare their artistic abilities from beginning of one year to the end, keeping track of musical goals and accomplishments, sharing their progression in a research project they are formulating, all at their fingertips with their own online ePortfolios.

I am proposing to begin a pilot program utilizing ePortfolios beginning with 4th and 5th grades in which:

- Students develop their ePortfolios using Google Sites on their Chromebooks, while giving them autonomy to create their own theme, look and content, teachers give guidance on components important in composing a successful page.
- Students will create posts based on their learning, through pictures, video, Google Slides and Docs or other resources. Posts can detail outcomes from their PBL, photos of completed or artwork in progress, video clips of student playing musical compositions learned, or even sharing essays written.
- These ePortfolios will be easily accessible to teachers to show parents growth, progression, goals, and strengths and weaknesses.
- The ePortfolios will follow our students beyond elementary, into secondary learning where they can continue to track their learning progress and accomplishments, giving them an edge on other students just learning how to use ePortfolios.

By integrating ePortfolios into the way our students track their learning, we are providing them with opportunities to easily reflect and connect what they learn as well as take ownership in that learning. They will gain self confidence and motivation to think "outside the box" and become innovative thinkers. The ePortfolios will be readily available to teachers to determine the level their students are at in their learning, get a sense of what they can comprehend, and what their interests are and what drives them to learn more. All of this, digitally and without mounds of paperwork and folders to flip through.

I'm excited to discover the endless possibilities ePortfolios will bring to this school and our students. I am asking for your support, as the leadership team, to allow me to begin the implementation by using one staff development day to collaborate with our 4th and 5th grade teachers developing ideas on how to fully utilize ePortfolios in their classrooms. Implementation of this proposal would include a team of teachers that would be key in steering this innovation, helping to make important decisions that fit best with the campus to gain the most benefits for our teachers and students. I would also like to use the Spring Open House night as a showcase of these ePortfolios, allowing our students to be the presenters and show off their ePortfolios to their families. I ask all of our Kriewald Road staff to be open to this exciting new addition to our students' learning experience. With the success of these piloted grade levels using ePortfolios, I would like to build on the program to encompass additional grade levels every year. I'm confident that developing this program will give our campus the much needed edge to be successful and take the lead in our district in the implementation of ePortfolios, opening doors for our students to a better future.

Sincerely,

Carl Dickerson- Elementary Fine Arts Coordinator