

## **BELIEFS**

Key fundamental beliefs drive our choice to provide students with Project-Based Learning:

1. *The Relationship between Accountability, Empowerment, Ownership and Motivation-* To motivate, one has to *empower*. Motivation involves not only being enthusiastic and pumped up about approaching a task, but also involves being equipped with the tools and the ability to complete the assignment. Students will learn that it is **THEIR** responsibility to get the job done.
2. *Flexibility-* While it is a good thing to be firm and stand by one's decisions, it is important to be flexible enough to realize when plans need to change. Students must view planning as an ongoing process.
3. *Creative Solutions-* A Japanese story – when a little girl kept wearing the wrong shoe on the wrong foot, her parents found a solution. There was half a smiley face on either shoe. The smiley face was complete only when she wore her shoes the correct way. Problem solved. It can be as simple as that when students use their creativity.
4. *Provide Challenges-* Student teams must be encouraged to stretch beyond their comfort zones. This will help them see just how far they can go.
5. *Building Trust-* Trust can be built within a team by demonstrating to each member that everyone is important and makes valued contributions.
6. *Technology is Important-* It is necessary to teach project management concepts and theories to help students and young adults become better prepared to enter the technological world of today and tomorrow.
7. *Communication is Key-* Clear, open communication is a prerequisite for a healthy, result-oriented work environment.
8. *Pride-* Regardless of one's position on a team, pride in one's work, at every level, is essential to any project.
9. *Leadership Can Be Learned-* Goal setting, time management, decision making, influencing others, initiative, self-confidence and developing a results-oriented approach are just a few of the skills students can learn and apply to their everyday lives if taught and cultivated properly.
10. *Celebrate Achievements- Even Mini-Achievements-* Celebrating at every landmark gives students something to look forward to, and lets them remember that they are making steady progress towards their goal – project completion!

Source: [http://www.projectmanagementsource.com/2006/08/lessons\\_from\\_pr.html](http://www.projectmanagementsource.com/2006/08/lessons_from_pr.html)