

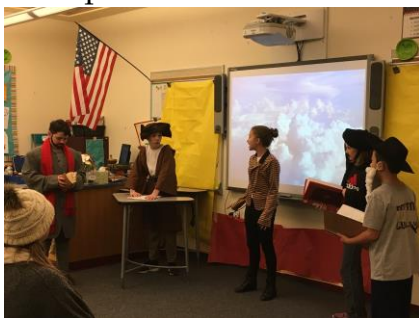
LEADING the NATION

East Elementary School

Leading the Nation is a 2018 statewide celebration in which Massachusetts and its public school students and individual communities are celebrating successful test performance, impressive student growth, and unique learning experiences across a broad spectrum of measures. Of course, academic performance metrics are one way to judge the quality of the state's schools and the success of educators across the Commonwealth. However, student achievements in the arts, in athletic endeavors, and in civic and service oriented activities are also important in defining program quality, relevance to a 21st Century world, and readiness for college, the world of work or other postsecondary experiences and career explorations. Every district is different in how it contributes to MA being recognized as being Number 1 in the nation in educational achievement among its students. The Hingham Public Schools and East Elementary School are joining in the statewide celebration by sharing information about the breadth of efforts that contribute to our students' success. Enclosed is information on one of the ways that we support student learning.

Over the past few years more teachers at East School have been incorporating project based learning (PBL) into their instructional practice. PBL is an approach that requires students to address a question or challenge through an extended period of time. Students typically work in small groups to complete a final product that demonstrates their understanding of the learning objective. It is an active style of learning in contrast to paper-based, rote memorization or teacher-led instruction. PBL is a more complex instructional model that often involves the incorporation of technology, varied materials and different forms of assessments.

Examples of PBL:



5th grade students wrote plays about the challenges faced by New World explorers in the 1500's.



4th grade students designed and built scale structures with lighting.