

Blended Learning in Action: Greenfields Academy

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About Greenfields Academy

- Serve K-8, with recently added High School levels
- Affiliated with Acton Academy
- 40 students, with 10:1 student - teacher ratio
- Specific Topics:
 - Student Agency and Student-led learning
 - Multi-age classrooms
 - Mastery-Based Education
 - Freedom Shock/onboarding new students

Student Agency and Student-Led Learning

- Schedule
 - Open work time in AM (Core), Guided Project-based Learning in PM
- Rules/Expectations
 - Student-set and Students upheld
- Topic/Focus
 - Choice in Core and Project
 - Limited/no direct instruction from an adult
- Opportunities for leadership
 - Mindfulness, committees, PE

Multi-Age Classrooms

- Five “groupings” of students
- Designated meeting times with their groups
- Peer-to-peer learning
 - Reading Buddies
 - Help Desk
- Dedicated time and space to interact with other ages
 - Workshops
 - Outside time/lunch
 - Project

Mastery Based Education

- Badges vs. Grades
 - Work at own pace versus working at teacher's pace
 - Pre-set curriculum and personalized progress plan
- No tests, no homework
 - Learning is measure authentically, using excellence standards
 - Students may work on things after school, but not required
- Celebration of Achievements
 - Badge Ceremony
 - Leveling Up
 - Exhibitions

Freedom Shock

- Too much choice can lead to indecision
 - Common in transfer students - used to being told what to do
 - 6-8 weeks
- Gradual release of responsibility
 - Freedom Levels - mainly in older students
 - Younger students - building habits and slowly adding choice
- Building Habits and motivation

COVID-19 Summary

- Loose structure to the day with freedom to work as they please
- Plenty of opt-in, choice based activities
- Weekly check-ins, academic and social-emotional
- Opportunities to celebrate achievements and maintain social connections

Questions?

