

LaFayette Big Picture TGIF

2020

DECEMBER 11

We are PRESENT, POSITIVE and PASSIONATE!



I am allowing myself to say it. This is hard! I could spend the next few pages listing all of the ways it is hard for me, hard for my staff, hard for our students, hard for our mentors and partners and hard for our families. While I will allow myself to sit in this place for a minute or two, I cannot allow myself to stay there very long. It would be a waste of energy. We all know it is hard. I must move forward and use my energy in finding solutions to the problems we are facing, to seek opportunities to provide meaningful virtual learning experiences, to find additional ways to connect our students to adult mentors in a safe way, and ensure the social and emotional needs of our students and staff are met. I also have to come to grips with the fact that I don't have all of the answers. I am more comfortable in this space because I often don't have the answers. I rely on my team and my mentors to help me. This week, I have had the opportunity to attend some of the sessions for the Virtual Big Picture Leadership conference. I value this chance to connect with people who are doing similar work and facing similar challenges. We are able to share problems and brainstorm solutions together. I am thankful for the ideas generated and ready to move forward with redesigning some of our practices. Top on my list is our internship experiences. Please see the flyer on the next page that describes some of our areas of need. In the most basic form, I would love to be able to share career spotlights in 30 -60 minute segments to our students. I know we have readership that have really interesting careers and/or career paths. And I know you know folks with the same. Please contact us for more information or to ask for additional details. Trust me, this will not be hard! It will be fun and rewarding. I hope to hear from you.

YOU ARE VIRTUALLY IRREPLACEABLE

MENTOR A STUDENT

VIRTUAL MENTORING

In normal times, students at LaFayette Big Picture are out of school at internship sites for two days each week.

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, our students have less of an opportunity to be in the community learning from professionals.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

1. MENTOR PRESENTATIONS

A mentor presents their work and career, the skills and dispositions that help them in their job, their journey, and advice to the students who share similar interest.

2. INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEW

Professionals meet with a student or students seeking information on their career, the industry, and the corporate culture of a potential future workplace.

3. DISTANCE INTERNSHIP

Mentors meet with students on set dates and times to complete work and develop a project that is beneficial to the site.

4. MENTOR SUPPORTED PROJECT

Mentor provides industry expertise and guidance for students to develop a project with real work learning connection.



USE YOUR POWER.....BE A MENTOR
CALL THE LAFAYETTE BIG PICTURE SCHOOL: 315-504-1000

TGIF from Walt

Things were pretty quiet this week at Big Picture, most likely because a large number of students are now on virtual learning. The building felt oddly empty, but hopefully things will get back to normal soon. Most of my time was spent working with the 101s on creating learning plans and starting projects. We also have been focusing on basic grammar skills and completing IXL math modules, so there wasn't a huge amount of project work this week. Other than that, there really wasn't too much going on.

This week's highlights

I worked with Jacoby on a welding project. He is interested in continuing to learn about welding, so Jacoby is doing a series of art based projects. This week he made a gift

for his mother out of horseshoes. Lenny also helped him make a custom frame for it in the shop. He did a great job on it, and I am sure his mom will love it. (We will show the photo later!)

Cody is interested in learning more about veterinary science, and this week he worked with Lenny to start a frog dissection. This is an important part of going into veterinary work, and Cody is doing a great job so far. He is also documenting his progress and learning a great deal about basic anatomy.

I have been working with the seniors to finish their health course requirements, and this week we focused on filming the public service announcement videos. I was able to help Dawsun, Tete and Randy finish their projects, and next week I hope to get some more down.

WELCOME CRYSTAL BUTLER, SOCIAL WORKER

First, let me introduce myself, I am Crystal Butler, the new school social worker, and I am here on Wednesdays and Thursdays. It is such an amazing opportunity to be part of the Big Picture, I am extremely thankful. I have spent my time at BP getting to know students in groups and meeting individually with students.

Meeting together has focused on understanding our feelings and emotions and putting words to them. We all experience BIG feelings sometimes and we are learning to "name it to tame it." Being able to recognize and say what we are feeling allows us to get it out and help manage it in healthy ways. When we don't have an opportunity to share what is going on inside and instead bottle it up, the pressure builds and builds until we "explode" in unhealthy or unhelpful ways. Any student that wishes can set up a meeting with me. I am here to support students and families in any way that is needed. Please feel free to reach out with any questions, concerns, or anything I can be helpful with. cbutler@lafayetteschools.org

TGIF from Lenny

The last couple of weeks have presented a number of challenges. We have, however, met each challenge with solutions and resolve. Here is a look at things from my angle. In both sections of ER we have delved into space exploration. Our first endeavor was learning about Voyager 1 and the incredible journey it has been on for decades. We learned about measuring great distances in space and the sheer scale of the universe. On Friday, each student presented their findings on a topic they were given earlier in the week. In person and virtual students taught their peers what they had learned about some very abstract concepts.

The Living Environment students also wrapped up the week presenting to their peers. Each student was assigned a human body system and was asked to teach their peers. They all did a fantastic job as both in person and virtual learners took their turn presenting. Learning about the body systems has laid the foundation for a planned frog dissection next week. Cody has shown a great interest in veterinary science so he was especially excited about the opportunity to



do a dissection. In advance of this, Cody worked out a plan with his advisors to go even deeper in his learning. Cody performed a dissection this week ahead of his peers so that he could really take his time and work through any obstacles. Next week when his peers are doing the dissection, he will be assisting them in their technique and collecting data on the mass of each organ removed from the specimens. Cody has demonstrated great patience and skilled technique with his specimen and I am excited to see him in a leadership role.

The shop has seen a steady flow of students and their projects. I'm sure that Walt and David will speak to the various 101 projects but I will just say that they are driven when it comes to hands on project work. Lucas, Jacoby and Ronnie have been frequent fliers and are a joy to work with. Kyle and Colby have both spent a little time on the lathe recently. Kyle was making a stick for a water drum and Colby was just learning proper technique.

The challenges to teaching during a pandemic are there each day and are constantly changing, but so is our determination and creativity to continue providing learning opportunities for our students. Each day is a gift. Stay safe and have a wonderful week.

NATIVE AMERICAN ART SHOW

Submit work to either:

Big Picture

ONS & Jr/Sr High Art Teacher

Shawna Booth

Complete the submission form at:

<https://forms.gle/p5S3fHdGQ3WeXZks7>

Submissions must be in by February 23rd

looking for Native American Artist's

All Ages

All Medium

TGIF from Jessica

The show must go on. Despite curve balls, regardless of mishaps, the show must go on. As a staff and student body we have learned to become very resilient. We have built up strength and flexibility to handle what comes our way. We have all become fighters and have learned to trudge on through the muck of each day, to get to the task and complete the job. As a staff and student body we have become very innovative. We have learned new strategies, new technology, and new methodologies to maintain quality performance and even further develop our skills. We have tired now and then (or all the time), but we have not given up. We continue to press on.

The 401s have been working on their health credits for graduation. They recently completed their research and 15 slide presentations on a drug of their choice. To go with their slides, they need to create a public service announcements (PSA) video. A few 401s started creating their videos this week and I am always impressed with their creativity. Stuart, Kyle, and Rioux worked with Dawsun to film her video. They created a bar scene with ice tea and showed the importance of both not

taking drinks from strangers and bringing a friend for safety. Hayden learned a new program called plotagon and was able to create his PSA on antidepressants. Hayden created multiple scenes and enforced the importance of using medication as prescribed. Liz also created her PSA on antidepressants, however, she created her video using Microsoft movie maker, where she included words and music to make her announcement. Whether in person or virtual, the students did a great job with their videos.

Algebra Foundation students have been learning about polynomials on IXL math. They are able to add and subtract polynomials. They are able to combine like terms. They can multiply monomials and binomials by polynomials. As they move forward, they are learning how to divide polynomials by monomials. The 101s have seen how IXL can be easy and challenging, but they have also found how it can be rewarding. When they complete a question right and when they complete a whole lesson they feel a sense of accomplishment and pride. We have three teachers in the room and one virtual, but all students are working at their own pace on different lessons and each student is able to quickly be assisted in the areas they need help.

TGIF from David

What does Batman and Dayton have in common? The answer is: The love of high tech sleek looking cars. Dayton would have you believe there is much more in common between the two of them as he scribbles "Batman was here" on whiteboards throughout the school, but as of right now their only connection is the love of cars. Dayton aims to find out if they have more in common as he launches into his learning plan for the new trimester. All of our 101s are trying to learn more about themselves this trimester while digging deeper into their projects.

The interests from our 101s range from business, to welding, to illustration, and to criminal justice. Their interests are taking us down many paths. Lucas had an interview this week with a Criminal Justice professor at SUNY Morrisville. The professor was impressed with the questions Lucas had prepared. The professor loves his job and his profession. He is eager to assist Lucas in any way as Lucas develops his learning plan. This interview helped Lucas determine the path he wants to take.

Haivan decided she wants to explore ice cream, and not just because she has a sweet tooth. Although, who wouldn't want to learn more about ice cream? She views her exploration as a business venture. Speaking of business, Charlie is pushing full steam ahead on the Coffee Shop. Her enthusiasm is rubbing off on other students. The legacy Dawsun intended to create when she started the On the Dot Coffee Shop will last.

Stone is writing a novella. He works on his story everyday and accepts critical feedback. I know that is hard when you are a creative person to receive feedback before your product is finished, but he has sought out our opinion on his writing.

The weeks ahead will definitely test the current interests of our students as they get deeper into the mud. They will start to hit obstacles as they conduct research and develop their projects. I have confidence they will learn how to get beyond those obstacles. They proved it last semester. If they can't, maybe some of them can call on Batman? The real Batman. Not the one who writes his name all over our school.

TGIF from April

It has been a tough week of adjusting to COVID for our school this week. Yet, despite missing our BP school friends who are home on quarantine, the 201s have plenty to celebrate!

On Friday the 4th, the 201s were able to enjoy an ice cream party they had earned through a PBIS challenge. For two weeks they had the (combined) highest daily percentage of goal attainment and earned the prize! The only time we are all together is during morning advisory so I asked Christine if we could do it then. Therefore, we had ice cream in the morning! Who doesn't like ice cream no matter the time of day?! After enjoying the treat we played some headbanz, what a hoot! It was such fun and really demonstrated quick thinking skills. My favorite moments during the activity were when acting out the word all of the 201s would spontaneously perform the same action/movement at the exact same moment- without any prompting or consultation. I don't exactly know why, but those moments just warmed my heart, they seemed so insync with each other and "family-esq". Sometimes we have some difficult times with our peers, so when they all can engage with each other and laugh and love each other- I experience a happy place that fills my soul.

This week (and the week before) the 201s have been working extremely hard on putting together their Learning Plan LTI projects and Gateway research paper topics. I have had amazing conversations during our 1:1's as they have shared their interests for their next semester of learning and I have guided them to add rigor to their ideas. The meetings have taken longer than expected due to the engagement and exuberance for the upcoming topics of study. I am super excited to see them fulfill

their learning plan goals; and I believe that they are also! Many have tied their research papers together with their LTI project which will enrich the rigor, but more 201s than expected have chosen to keep the LTI project and research topic separate. WOW!! Talk about rigor!

While planning and mapping out our learning plans, to prepare for the research paper, we have reviewed proper grammar and paragraph structure. Then we learned how to complete an annotated bibliography, MLA formatting, and a research paper outline. We have been busy!

All their hard work in these targeted learning areas will help make the actual writing process for their Gateway research paper much easier. I am enjoying watching them engage in learning proper research techniques as they work through the annotated bibliography. They are really digging in, asking good questions and taking the work to heart.

The 201s also did an amazing job working through the IXL diagnostic this week! Every day we worked on chipping away at the math and ELA questions. It was no easy feat, but the data collected by completing the diagnostic should prove invaluable. My favorite comment was when one student finished the diagnostic they shouted: "I won!" LOL- that's the spirit! So next time you are working through something that is difficult, and *not* fun, consider when you are done simply shouting: I won! And I guarantee you will feel better about your accomplishment! I am really so proud of the 201s that 'won' this task this week!

In 101 USH we have been working through content specific vocabulary and the system of government. They are so full of energy- always!- I very much enjoy this class!

TGIF from Greg

How do kids get through a pandemic while trying to complete their school work? That is a question we never thought we would ever have to ask. I do think the students have brightened our darkest days. They persevere and teach the adults as much as we teach them. The 301s have always persevered. They take any challenge and try their best. It has been tough the last few weeks but the kids are in good spirits and have produced some great work. Moving forward from exhibitions and Gateway, the kids have focused on QR, ER, and 11th grade ELA Regents prep. This week and next week all of the kids are virtual learners again. They are much more prepared for this than they were in the spring. They have been getting online and plugging away at their new trimester. In ELA Regents prep, they are reading *Marathon Man*, which has really grabbed their attention and actually proven to be beneficial in the way they've shown their understanding of literary elements. In Quantitative Reasoning (Math), they are learning about all types of bank accounts, filling out W9s, as well as taxes and interest rates. They will also be competing in the Stock Market challenge once again, this time for big prizes. They are grasping the concepts of budgeting, employment and expenses. They have had a great year so far in Empirical Reasoning, (Science). They have grown garlic, helped winterize a greenhouse and most recently built model bridges. The bridges tested

their architectural skills to see whose could hold the most weight, as well as whose bridge had the least mass. They will be doing this project in ER again later in the year since they had so much fun competing against each other! This week they have been exploring space with Lenny via Google Meets and are creating a class presentation on all the strange and unusual facets beyond our atmosphere. In advisory, they have now accomplished 4 journals on some free write topics they have asked for. It is actually turning out great. When kids enjoy writing about things that interest them they write more and excel. This week the students who have internships did an awesome job, especially in photography. On Monday they were all able to get online with an OCC Advantage Coordinator, as well as a current student to ask all the questions they might have about applying to college, college classes and of course, college life. The 301s crushed it. They asked awesome questions and gained valuable insights for their academic futures. Soon they will put a strong emphasis on their Autobiographies in preparation for their 401 year, (DID I JUST SAY THAT?!?). THIS TGIF IS FOR MY STUDENTS: Thank you guys. You make coming to work fun whether online or in person. You are being challenged in unprecedented ways in all manners of our world. You care for each other as a family, and as a teacher, I could not ask for a better group.