

Definition of 21st Century Learning:

21st Century Learning includes the essential skills, knowledge, expertise and attitudes students must possess to succeed in school, post secondary education, work and life.

Communication:

- Articulate thoughts and ideas using a variety of forms such as: oral, written, nonverbal, and electronic.
- Use active listening to understand others' messages.
- Communicate for a variety of purposes such as to inform, instruct, motivate, and persuade.

Problem Solving/Critical Thinking:

- Solve real-life problems in conventional and innovative ways.
- Ask questions that clarify various points of view that lead to better solutions.
- Interpret various forms of information, draw conclusions and solve problems.
- Reflect critically on learning experiences and processes.

Manage, Analyze and Synthesize Information:

- Access information efficiently and effectively.
- Evaluate information thoughtfully and critically.
- Use information accurately, creatively, and ethically for the issue or problem at hand.
- Manage the flow of information from a wide variety of sources.

Teamwork/Collaboration:

- Interact positively and effectively with others.
- Collaborate and cooperate effectively within and among diverse teams.
- Hold self and others accountable for time, work production and quality results.

**BH-BL
21st Century
Framework
Skills**

Productivity:

- Set and achieve goals.
- Manage time and projects effectively.
- Produce and be accountable for results.
- Work independently and with others to complete tasks without direct oversight.
- Demonstrate initiative to gain knowledge and enhance skills.

Media Literacy:

- Understand, create, and utilize the most appropriate media tool to communicate to a variety of audiences (i.e. PowerPoint, podcast, blog, short animation, etc.).
- Understand the ethical/legal issues surrounding the use of media.

Financial Literacy:

- Know how to make appropriate personal economic choices.
- Understand the role of the economy in society.

Innovation & Creativity:

- Create new ideas.
- Work creatively with others.
- Act on creative ideas and innovations.

Adaptability:

- Be flexible with varied roles, responsibilities, schedules, and situations.
- Work effectively in a climate of ambiguity and change.
- Deal positively with praise, setbacks and criticism.

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Global Awareness:

- Understanding global issues such as economic changes, competition for natural resources, and growth of the worldwide middle class.
- Understanding, appreciating, and working with individuals representing diverse cultures, religions, etc.

Energy & Sustainability:

- Demonstrating an understanding of the environment and conditions affecting it such as air, climate, land, food, energy, water and ecosystems.
- Understanding society's impact on the natural world.
- Taking action towards addressing environmental issues.

Life Balance & Wellness:

- Taking charge of your life through balancing academics, extracurricular activities, sports, families, friends, media consumption and use of electronic devices, etc.
- Making appropriate choices regarding health and wellness.
- Understanding preventative health measures such as: nutrition, exercise, risk avoidance, stress reduction.

Meaning/Purpose/Passion:

- Discovering and cultivating talents, interests and passions.
- Seeing the relevance of what is being learned in a clear and compelling way.

BH-BL 21st Century Framework Themes

Desire to Learn:

- Discovering what ignites an interest to learn more.
- Feeling capable and competent as learners.

Ethics, Civic & Personal Responsibility:

- Exercising the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.
- Demonstrating integrity and ethical behavior.
- Acting responsibly by keeping the interests of others in mind.

Leadership:

- Using interpersonal and problem solving skills to influence and guide others toward a common goal.
- Utilizing the strengths of others to accomplish desired results.
- Inspiring others to reach their best through example.

Character Development:

- Treating self and others with empathy, respect, compassion, etc.
- Acting responsibly toward self, others and surroundings.

Guiding Questions

1. What instructional strategies and tools should be used to maximize learning, engagement, and achievement of 21st century students?
2. How will this lesson, unit or course explicitly teach students to think, read, write, and express themselves like an expert in a particular content area?
3. In what new ways can we motivate and inspire students to want to learn about the subject area?
4. What opportunities will students have to apply 21st Century Learning to relevant, real-life situations?
5. How will effective teaching and assessment of 21st Century Learning be balanced with required standardized testing?
6. What partnerships will enhance the learning experience?

Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Schools
21st Century Framework for Learning Pathway Document

- **Create integrated classrooms with relevant interdisciplinary learning experiences with an emphasis on depth over breadth.**
 - Encourage and explore ways for teachers in different disciplines to collaborate on shared projects, across curriculum.
 - Include current, relevant and rigorous curriculum outlined in the 21st Century Framework for Learning.
 - Utilize highly interactive technology to engage students with web based learning, personal technology, and distance learning.
 - Improve classroom environment (desks, more storage, tables, outlets) to allow for more movement and group work.

- **Develop skills and apply knowledge to address relevant problems with creative and innovative solutions.**
 - Expand hands-on, relevant and rigorous project based learning opportunities for groups and individuals.
 - Help students develop higher order thinking to utilize critical analysis to solve real life problems.
 - Expose students to disciplinary and interdisciplinary based careers.
 - Build interpersonal, presentation, and teamwork skills in the classroom.

- **Develop high quality literacy across all disciplines.**
 - Incorporate technical, digital, and financial skills for students to understand the role of economy, culture, society and the individual's impact upon the world.
 - Teach students to think, read, write and express themselves like experts in the field.

- **Provide and support professional development to inspire and encourage teachers to explore new teaching strategies and technology to deliver high quality instruction for the 21st Century.**
 - Provide and embed time and opportunities for team orientated professional development.
 - Promote extended learning opportunities and make them more accessible by offering a variety of delivery mechanisms.

- **Expand alternative, differentiated learning opportunities.**
 - Integrate state of the art technology and delivery systems to enhance learning outcomes.
 - Develop flexibility in school scheduling, teaching strategies and procedures to allow for non-traditional, career and independent learning opportunities.
 - Increase instructional programs and opportunities for differentiated learning experiences.

- **Expand opportunities for collaboration and communication to increase student learning opportunities.**
 - Increase communication with students, parents, community and other schools utilizing digital resources.
 - Increase use of collaboration through community and professional partnerships like Junior Achievement and internships.
 - Use collaboration and communication tools to create and share knowledge with a larger audience because “the world is our stage.”

- **Utilize a balanced whole child educational approach that promotes academic, career, social, emotional, and physical development.**
 - Develop citizenship, leadership, responsibility, and adaptability in students necessary to succeed in the 21st Century environment.
 - Help students to discover and develop their passion to motivate them to be innovators and productive life-long learners by exposing them to a variety of interests.
 - Provide opportunities for all students to explore, experience, and plan a career path.