

## Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Washington Discovery Academy

- 1. What is PBL or Project Based Learning? Is this like theme based teaching?** Answer: Project based learning goes beyond theme based teaching. Students are engaged in higher level tasks and projects which theme based learning does not offer. Students utilize technology and other media tools to produce the projects and/or products. PBL is learning that begins with authentic problems, and students are encouraged to solve this problem using a variety of resources and technology. This learning creates an environment where students are learning the common core standards and more! Students are continuously collaborating, communicating, and cooperating with others which are 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills. This is a nontraditional way of learning for students. The classroom is designed to foster the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills, and Washington Discovery Academy will create that environment for your child!
- 2. If we are accepted to the academy and want to withdraw after they attend, is this acceptable?** Answer: Yes, they can withdraw; however, they are committed for one year.
- 3. What happens after the academy at Washington? Will they continue on with PBL?** Answer: Students will follow the “PBL” track through high school. Students will have the opportunity to participate in Project Based Learning at Riverside, LJH, and New Tech High school. At this time, these schools are planning for those students to continue with this type of learning as they enter their schools.
- 4. Would my child benefit from PBL?** Answer: Yes any child would benefit from Project Based Learning. We are training the students for the business world. The business world does communicate, collaborate, and cooperate with groups of people. They work to create solutions to problems they face each and every day in the workplace. No longer are businesses having people work alone to solve a problem or issue. Other benefits include: learning to utilize a variety of media tools or technology, creating products that involve higher level thinking and problem solving skills, working with a variety of resources and materials, collaborating with community members and businesses, and working in an environment which is nontraditional (NOT sitting in desks and working on paper/pencil tasks).
- 5. Is there a fee to attend the academy?** Answer: No there is not an additional fee to attend the academy. Parents will be required to pay the “traditional” textbook fees as they traditionally do every year.
- 6. How do I apply?** Answer: Go online to our corporation webpage: [www.plymouth.k12.in.us](http://www.plymouth.k12.in.us) or call Mrs. Bartholomew, Washington secretary, at 574-936-4072.
- 7. What is the purpose of the school uniforms?** Answer: We are modeling the business world in our attire. Students are dressed to work and for success! We are making school uniforms easily accessible and very cheap for parents. We want parents to be able to go to any store in Plymouth to get the uniform. Examples will be shown at our Parent Meeting in April.
- 8. Are children using the computer all day long?** Answer: No they are not. Technology is one of the tools in which students will be able to research and evaluate resources, design and complete their projects, and solve authentic problems. Technology and other media are ways in which the students can explore and make connections between school and life.