



◆ **What exactly is project based learning?** According to the Buck Institute, in **Project Based Learning (PBL)**, students go through an extended process of inquiry in response to a complex question, problem, or challenge. Rigorous projects help students learn key academic content and practice 21st Century Skills (such as collaboration, communication & critical thinking). Students will still learn the same standards as determined by the Indiana Department of Education. However, rather than learning these standards through a traditional system of individualized study, students work collaboratively to address problems that meet these Indiana standards. PBL is also characterized by a connection to an authentic outside partner. Students in New Tech will partner with the community and businesses to develop solutions or create projects to benefit their community, while acquiring important 21st century skills and mastering Indiana standards.

◆ **What is the teacher's role in project based learning?** The teachers takes on the role of **facilitator** in PBL. Their role is to support the students in the collaborative inquiry process, developing their learning through scaffolding activities, and acting as guide as the student drives their learning for greater comprehension and mastery of standards.

◆ **If my child is working in a group, will every member receive the same grade?** Absolutely not. In project based learning, each member of the group is assigned a group role. Examples of such roles are: Team Leader, Teacher Liaison, Summarizer, Project Evaluator, Synthesizer, Progress Monitor, Collaboration Monitor, Work Ethic Monitor, Rubric Czar, etc. Students will be evaluated individually on their performance in their appointed role for each project. Furthermore, students will receive individual grades on the above mentioned scaffolding activities.

◆ **What kind of data is available to support the success of New Tech and project based learning?** Detailed information on quantitative and qualitative data surrounding New Tech can be located on the School of Inquiry site as well as [www.newtechnetwork.org](http://www.newtechnetwork.org). Mr. Olson and Mrs. Felke would also be happy to discuss this data in person.



If you would like to speak directly with Mr. Olson or Mrs. Felke about the School of Inquiry or Project Based Learning, please contact them at their emails:

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For more information about  
New Tech Network please go to:  
[www.newtechnetwork.org](http://www.newtechnetwork.org)

<http://www.plymouth.k12.in.us/plymouth-school-of-inquiry.html>