

# GAMALIEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Gamaliel, KY

Gamaliel Elementary

Grades Preschool - 5th

252 Students

20.5 Certified Staff

Rural Setting

Socioeconomic:

74.2% Free lunch

3.6% Reduced lunch

Ethnicity:

0% African American

0% Asian

11.1% Hispanic

85.7% White

\$8,763 per student spending



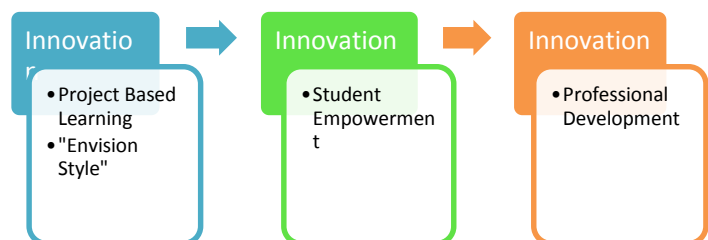
***Tigers on the Move!***

## Innovation Snapshot

### *Innovation Pathways*

*Future learners of Gamaliel Elementary School will have the opportunity to participate in Project Based Learning. This approach will result in high quality products of performances that show the results of an inquiry through applied knowledge and skills.*

## Key Elements



### kid-FRIENDLY Supports

- Data Retreat
- Cultural Proficiency Institute
- Community of Practice
- Leader In Me
- FRSYC Funds



# Gamaliel Elementary School



## *Tigers on the Move!* *Innovation Snapshot* *Kathy Taylor, Principal*

### **What does the future look like for learners at GES?**

Future learners of GES will have the opportunity to participate in Project Based Learning. This approach will result in high quality products or performances that show the results of an inquiry through applied knowledge and skills. Products could include presentations, artistic representations, speeches, posters or video. Project Based Learning will be in place by 2017 in grade levels 2nd—5th. We will begin by offering Project Based Learning in three-four week long units, where students will the opportunity to chose the direction of their learning.



### **What strategy will lead us to our future?**

We will use an “Envision Style” approach, including:

- ◆ A timeline for students to benchmark and manage products
- ◆ An engaging hook to motivate students
- ◆ Academic rigor and alignment with standards in various content areas
- ◆ An inquiry that drives the learning and the unit
- ◆ A demonstration of key knowledge and skills allowing students to show evidence that they have mastered skills through their project production
- ◆ Applied learning so that students think and do something new with their knowledge or skills
- ◆ Reflection as part of the routine

## *Innovation Snapshot Continued....* **Tigers on the Move**

### **What research led to this selection?**

Our “Envision Style” of Project Based Learning was modified from a Teacher Leadership article entitled *What Does Successful Project Based Learning Look Like?* by Bob Lenz. Bob is a founder and Chief of Innovations at Envision Education. He is recognized nationally as a leader in Project Based Learning and 21st Century skills.

Our staff feels that this approach would be especially successful with our student population. We also feel that the motivational aspect of this type of learning will contribute to a new level of excitement regarding student learning.

We have also looked at the Katherine Smith Elementary School in California, who is known for their work in Project Based Learning. We hope to continue our research on the school’s



### **What is our current status with respect to this innovation?**

In order to begin the idea of personalized learning at the elementary level that includes the “Envision Style” of Project Based Learning, GES has started several initiatives to grow independent, motivated learners. These include the following: Leader In Me concepts and ideas, use of individualized programs that allow students to progress based on their own levels (Triumph Learning Waggle, Reading Plus, Lexia, and Accelerated Reader), ability grouping (literacy instruction, reading, and math), and provocation of college and career possibilities. We know these initiatives will lead to the mindset of Project Based Learning at GES. We also have teachers participating in professional development through the Race to the Top Grant in digital learning, student empowerment, and real world applications.

We have not started the actual project based learning yet at GES, as we are still in the learning process.

### **What is currently available?**

- kid · Friendly Grant
- Leader In Me
- Reading Plus
- Lexia
- Triumph Learning Waggle
- Accelerated Reader
- College and Career Programming
- Professional Development
- Innovation Team

### **What is needed?**

- Additional professional development in Project Based Learning
- Supplies and materials for projects
- Contact Katherine Smith Elementary School in California for resources and guidance.
- PD to develop ideas on how to incorporate Project Based Learning