



STEM IN ACTION

At a little storefront charter school in Plainfield, New Jersey, the Barack Obama Green Charter High School, students there participated in what has developed over the last 5 months to be one of the finest examples of hands-on Inquiry Based Projects that took place this year where science, tech, engineering, and math curricula are part of the Project's DNA. The "Imagine" design Project has relevance as a national/global template regardless of demographic. It is a powerful validation of STEM in action that demonstrates students engaged and taking ownership of their educational processes, learning across the STEM curriculums, using higher order thinking skills while addressing real world issues that are important to them, and having FUN.

IMAGINE

As previously stated, this school is located in a Downtown Plainfield storefront. When developing a Spring Project this year, we asked the students what would be most relevant for them to work on. After much discussion, their response was that they'd like to find a new teaching and learning space to renovate to become the next iteration of the school, and "Imagine" was born. As it turned out, the school admin team was also thinking about a new space. Taking their cue from the actual potential renovation site, the students settled on re-designing an abandoned industrial building Downtown, not far from the existing school. Working with both on-site architects and virtually, with design visionaries in real-time from around the world, their sustainable renovation ideas took shape. In a series of short videos, this is a comprehensive compilation of the "Imagine" Project processes that includes educator reflections and student voices:

Using Technology to Connect to the World-

<http://guerillaeducators.typepad.com/ge/2014/02/obama-green-design-project-.html>

Learning the SketchUp Design Protocols-

<http://guerillaeducators.typepad.com/ge/2014/03/imagine-design-project-sketchup-session.html>

Professional Community Partnerships-

<http://guerillaeducators.typepad.com/ge/2014/04/at-ssp-architectural-group.html>

Design/Building the Model-

<http://guerillaeducators.typepad.com/ge/2014/04/-imagine-model.html>

Student Voices-

<http://guerillaeducators.typepad.com/ge/2014/05/best-practices-imagine-student-voices.html>

Teacher Reflections-

<http://guerillaeducators.typepad.com/ge/2014/05/interviews-part-1.html>

Under the auspices of CEFPI, the students also conducted a live streamed presentation of "Imagine" to Educational Facilities Planners along the East Coast.

For more information or to bring a Project to your school contact John Sole at:
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