

What is Deeper Learning at James Madison High School?

Deeper Learning goes beyond the surface and provides opportunities for **ALL learners** to collaborate and innovate to find meaning and make connections in real-world, relevant, and authentic experiences that unlock our individual passions and collective joy.

Why is Deeper Learning such an important part of our vision?

Applying **interdisciplinary skills** through deeper learning experiences is the focus of the [FCPS School Board's Strategic Plan and Focus](#). The Strategic Plan sets goals for students to participate in **meaningful learning experiences** that combine essential course content and skills as outlined in the [FCPS Portrait of a Graduate](#).

Many colleges and universities require students to engage in **interdisciplinary capstone experiences** that rely on 21st century skills and Deeper Learning competencies. **Linked below** are just some of the opportunities available, and several of the schools have multiple capstone experiences available to students.



College applications are evolving to include opportunities for students to **showcase their deeper learning experiences** in high school. Students applying to college in the 2019-20 school year using the Coalition Application have an opportunity to provide colleges with **a portfolio of learning experiences** across the contents. The Common Application is currently piloting a portfolio-based application that includes an option for students to upload **performance-based tasks** that demonstrate *application* of core content and interdisciplinary skills and a student's reflection on those experiences. [The pilot program](#) with a number of universities in the northeast is being studied this year, with possibilities for expansion in future years. A number of Virginia institutions are planning to participate in the expanded program.

The [Mastery Transcript Consortium](#) is a group of educators, researchers, and high schools across the United States working towards **redefining the high school transcript** to reflect the skills and content that students develop and acquire through deeper learning experiences. The process of mastery-based grading and reporting are aligned with Madison High School's shift to the **4.0 scale and standards-based grading**.

Tony Wagner writes in "[Reinventing High School: Measuring What Matters Most](#)":

[The Mastery Transcript] is creating an entirely new way to report the quality of student work and their readiness for postsecondary learning—one that is based on real evidence of mastery, rather than a grade or time spent in a particular class. The new reporting will indicate the skills and knowledge that students have mastered. But it can also include qualities of character that make their humanity visible and help admissions officers make better decisions when it comes to an applicant's "fit."

Research & Resources that Support Deeper Learning

FCPS Resources

[FCPS Portrait of a Graduate](#)

[FCPS Learning Model](#)

[FCPS Best Practices for Teaching & Learning](#)

[FCPS School Board's Strategic Plan and Focus](#)

[FCPS FCPSOn](#)

Research Reports

[The Deeper Learning Research Series](#), Jobs for the Future, 2015

[Does Deeper Learning Improve Student Outcomes?](#) American Institute of Research, 2016

[From a Nation at Risk to a Nation at Hope](#), Aspen Institute, 2019

[A Rich Seam: How New Pedagogies Find Deep Learning](#), Michael Fullan & Maria Langworthy, 2014

[The Opportunity Myth](#), TNTP, 2019

Articles

[Three Studies Show Impact of Deeper Learning](#), American Institute for Research, 2016

[What's Worth Learning in School](#), David Perkins, Harvard Ed Magazine, 2015

[Student Centered: How Student Shadowing can Transform a Culture](#) National Association of Secondary School Principals, 2019

Books

[In Search of Deeper Learning](#), Jal Mehta & Sara Fine, 2019

[FutureWise](#), David Perkins, 2014

[Creating Cultures of Thinking](#), Ron Ritchhart, 2015

[Making Thinking Visible](#), Ron Ritchhart, 2011

[What Schools Could Be](#), Ted Dintersmith, 2019

[Most Likely to Succeed](#), Tony Wagner & Ted Dintersmith, 2016

[Creative Schools](#), Sir Ken Robinson, 2016

[Leaders of Their Own Learning](#), Ron Berger, 2014

Media - Youtube Playlists & Documentaries

[The Innovation Playlist](#)

[Most Likely to Succeed Documentary](#)

[Future Learning](#)

["Puzzle Rush" Podcast](#)