

Matt Buckley

Santa Fe High School

Really, I promise they are learning! Getting to the heart of the non-traditional learner.

Rotary Club of Santa Fe,

This project was designed to help high school level students participate in creative development of higher order thinking skills. Students in our team's classes were encouraged to learn to play several different types of board games; all of which are based on developing higher order thinking skills. Since these games require a significant monetary investment, the non-traditional learner proposal was submitted to PIE in hopes of receiving a grant.

Because of your generous grant, 42 individual board games were purchased and distributed to 8 different classrooms. These games spanned all facets of creative practice of skills necessary for success at every grade level at the high school. While the academic results of these games will not be known until the upcoming academic year when we continue our MAPPS testing, the enthusiasm they created about learning was astounding. The students actively participated in the weekly playing of the games, the creative process of learning and then teaching the games and the game development process. It provided a valuable insight in to the necessity of interacting with an audience and how understanding will directly affect the caliber of the results of the game being played. The lasting effect on the creative pulse of these classes-and specifically the students who participated in the project-cannot be measured. It brought a new dimension of maturity to the classroom, in a way that would be impossible to replicate without this grant.

The next step is to continue the project on a larger scale to include more classes and more students in the process.

Thank you so much for your generous contribution to the classroom and to the lives of our students.

Matt Buckley