Make Me a Maker:
Fostering a Maker Mentality in Your School

PARTICIPANT GUIDE
Many thanks to Association Instructors Danielle Nelson, Elk Island Public Schools and Sally Rudakoff, St. Albert Public Schools for their development of this workshop.

Online Participant Survey

Please complete the online survey using the link provided.

www.surveymonkey.com/r/AIWorkshopEval
Essential Question

How would implementing a Makerspace in our school develop creativity and innovation in our students?

My thoughts on the Essential Question:

Workshop Goals

The goals of this workshop are to:

- develop a foundational knowledge of the Maker Movement,
- identify research based reasons for incorporating Makerspace resources in the classroom,
- consider characteristics of a Makerspace and,
- discuss best practices in developing a Maker Mentality.

Definitions

**Makerspace:** A makerspace is a physical location where people gather to share resources and knowledge, work on projects, network and build.

**Maker Movement:** The Maker Movement is a grassroots movement focusing on do-it-yourself, inquiry, technology, and recycling. It has evolved into a massive community of collaborators working to improve the world around them.

**Maker Mentality:** the mindset that teachers and students should work towards developing in order to successfully implement a makerspace in the building.
Guidelines for How to Bring Making to Your School

- Create environments for making.
- Interleave fabrication and tinkering.
- Provide multiple pathways.
- Show that making is a common practice.
- Don’t equate making with tools alone.

Initial Steps

- Find a space that will work
  - Stations in your classroom
  - Space in the library
  - An open classroom
- Collect basic materials
  - Glue, Tape, Scissors, Paper
  - Recycled materials (here is where students can help!)
  - Natural materials (rocks, sticks, leaves)
- Get students excited
  - Share videos (see example)
  - Build suspense (launch book)
- Plan your first get-together or classroom activity
  - Let students play! The first part is to let students become familiar with materials and processes

Maker Mentality

Vision for Students

- Become independent learners.
- Gain confidence and be willing to try.
- Feel pride and become capable.
- Use creativity.
- Learn what it means to be innovative.
- Build on the basics.
- Learn about resources and possibilities.
- Make connections in the school and in the greater community.
Visions for Teachers/Supervisors

- Build capacity amongst students to be critical thinkers, problem solvers, and inventors
- Become a “yes” person
- Allow students to struggle
- Become a facilitator
- Ask questions, don’t give answers
- Stick to the ideas of the manifesto
- Controlling the chaos

Parental Engagement

Vision to Increase Parental Engagement

- Families can gather materials for the Makerspace
- Parents can be community experts and share their knowledge with the class
- Parents can be station helpers
- Parents can network to find other community members to bring into the class
- Invite parents for a parent-night of Making so they can experience Making
- Have students be expert makers and teach the mentality to their parents
- Have a Maker Faire where families can come in and see what students have made or are in the process of making
The Maker Movement

Adapted from the Maker Movement Manifesto by Mark Hatch
Resources

Books


The ATA library is a great place to start if you are interested in a makerspace. They even have activities you can rent out to use with your students! Here are two great resources you can take out from the library and get started:

1) Littlebits Kits
2) MakeDo Kits

Join ETCATA

The Educational Technology Specialist council of the Alberta Teachers Association is great place to find professional learning opportunities and resources. Check out their website: https://etc.teachers.ab.ca

Links

“Adventures in Makerland,” a blog by Helene Hewitt on http://makerlandadventures.blogspot.ca

Brightworks School http://www.sfbrightworks.org
High Tech High
https://hightechhigh.org

Makezine
http://makezine.com

Instructables
www.instructables.com

2Learn Makerspace Resources
http://www.2learn.ca/create/MakerS.aspx

George Luca Educational Foundation – Edutopia: Starting a Makerspace in your School
https://www.edutopia.org/blog/starting-school-makerspace-from-scratch-colleen-graves

Instructables – How to Start a Maker Space by Jeff Hunt
http://www.instructables.com/id/How-to-Start-a-Makerspace/