

The Mindset for Education

Website: www.startedupinnovation.com

Book: Pure Genius: Building a Culture of Innovation and Taking 20% Time to the Next Level

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Podcast: <http://www.startedupinnovation.com/podcast/>

Background

- Don teaches Innovation and Open Source learning at Noblesville High School
 - 7 week class format and the rest of the year is driven by students using a Genius Hour style format.
 - Allows students to explore beyond the classroom. Takes many lessons from the start up community and makes them relevant to kids and their future.
 - Students take on events, apps, podcasts, blogs, businesses, products-- really whatever they are passionate about with a mentor.
 - Example project: 2 Students starting a sustainable school in Ghana.
 - Focus on community aspect.
 - Registered nonprofit.
 - Looking to scale to other locations internationally.
 - Example project: Partnership development between a local farmer's market to be able to sell to government food programs.
 - Students learn lessons from failing, succeeding, and trying things different ways.
- Teachers can look at integrating a Genius Hour approach within a more traditional classroom by providing opportunities for open discussion and connecting the students to other people with specialized expertise that can provide alternative perspectives.
- Don's Podcast: StartEdUp (available via iTunes or any podcast app)
 - Started initially as he was in touch with Tim Ferris and he encouraged students to seek out people to learn from on topics that they were interested in and realized that they could be recorded for a greater share.

- Example episodes:
 - Jeff Hoffman (Co-founder priceline.com and Ubid.com among other project) talks about the opportunity he realized he had because he was blessed financially. He realized that there is no somebody. There is no they. There is you. And everyone will fall in line if you do it. Currently traveling the world fostering pockets of innovation and entrepreneurship.
 - Tucker Max talks about how he learned to beat the rules and how he despised school but loved learning.
 - Jordan Gilbert talks about how gaming and education can resemble one another with the introduction of innovation. He also talks about what it takes to be a professional gamer.
 - Seth Godin talks about some of his strong opinions about traditional education.
 - Ex: Experiment with class and ask students to write down the 3 names of people that they would trust that would spend \$10,000 wisely. Did they put themselves on the list?
 - Nick Gillespie (Editor of Reason magazine) talks about school choice.
 - Dan Pink talks about the heart of motivation being mastery (getting good at something), autonomy (having the freedom to pursue something) , and purpose (pursuit of something bigger than yourself).
- Even if you are in favor of traditional education it's helpful to listen to some of these ideas and to be aware of them since education and our student's well being is so important. We may disagree but it's great to hear from some successful people and allow them to challenge our thinking.