7th Grade Presentation of Learning Planning Guide

Your Presentation of Learning should provide answers to these three guiding questions:

1. What have you learned as a seventh grader at The Crossroads School?
2. What are your strengths and goals as a learner and student?
3. Why do you feel you will be successful in the eighth grade?

Each of you has created a portfolio containing academic work and reflections from this school year. You will use your portfolio to help you answer these guiding questions in your POL but you will not simply be "presenting your portfolio". It is essential that you follow the outline provided in this planning guide in order to create a high quality presentation of learning.

Presentations of learning are evaluated by a panel of parents, teachers and invited guests. Students will receive one of the following scores on their POL:

- Passed with Honors
- Passed with Distinction
- Passed
- Failed

You will find a rubric attached this planning guide that describes the criteria for each score. Students who do not pass their presentation of learning will be required to present their POL again during the summer.

Each POL must have the following sections:

1. Introduction and Welcome
2. An overview of your school year describing academic progress and personal discoveries
3. A complete explanation of your accomplishments and academic skills through a METAPHOR that describes your 7th grade year. During this section you will share work samples from your portfolio.
4. A discussion of specific goals for the coming year
5. Questions and answers from the panel

What is a METAPHOR?

As all of you know, a metaphor is a creative comparison between two unlike things. A metaphor that uses the words "like" or "as" is called a simile. An extended metaphor that goes into great detail and draws many comparisons is an analogy. However, we don't really care what you call it as long as you come up with an interesting, entertaining way to talk about your experiences as a 7th grader at Crossroads.

How do I start?

Finish the following simile starter:

Seventh grade has been like _____.

What did you come up with? Most likely you thought about the kind of year you've had and tried to think of a symbol or comparison for your experiences. Maybe 7th grade was like one of the following:

- climbing a mountain
- baking a cake
- a wild roller coaster ride
- the month of February (I'll explain)
- learning to do a lay-up in basketball
- repairing my bike
- flying a kite
- a series of downs in football
- changing from a tadpole into a frog
- the circulatory system of mammals
- a path through the jungle
- a fire burning out of control
- a book with many chapters

As you can see, the possibilities are only limited by your creativity and imagination. THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX!

How do I come up with a good metaphor?

Your metaphor can be anything that you think will help you talk about your seventh grade year in an interesting and entertaining way. However, your metaphor must be able to do a couple of essential things.

1. You must be able to support and develop your metaphor with work samples from your portfolio.
2. Your metaphor must be complicated enough to communicate the reality of your year. A year is a long time and you have had lots of ups and downs.
3. Your metaphor must enable you to talk about how you have grown and changed as a seventh grader. You are not the same as you were a year ago and you need to explain that in your presentation of learning.

A BAD metaphor: "Seventh grade has been like a sunny day!"
Another BAD metaphor: "Seventh grade has been like a boring movie."

What makes these metaphors bad?

Testing your metaphor
Once you have decided upon a couple of possibilities for your metaphor test it to see if it is a quality choice. Answer the following questions:

1. How can you develop or extend this metaphor? What are all the different aspects or parts to this choice? For example, if you are comparing your year to a wild roller coaster ride, what are all the thing you can think of that relate to a roller coaster? You should be able to think of LOTS of aspects. If you can not do that, your metaphor is probably too simple.
2. Does this metaphor let you showcase your work? What parts of the metaphor relate to the work in your portfolio? For example, on a roller coaster you might get scared on the way to the first big hill. Is there a work sample that made you afraid or pushed you to face your fears? You will need to share at least 5 work samples!
3. Does this metaphor allow you to show how you have changed? For example, after riding the roller coaster you might change from feeling nervous to feeling confident. You will need to make some connections between your metaphor and how you have changed as a 7^{th} grader.