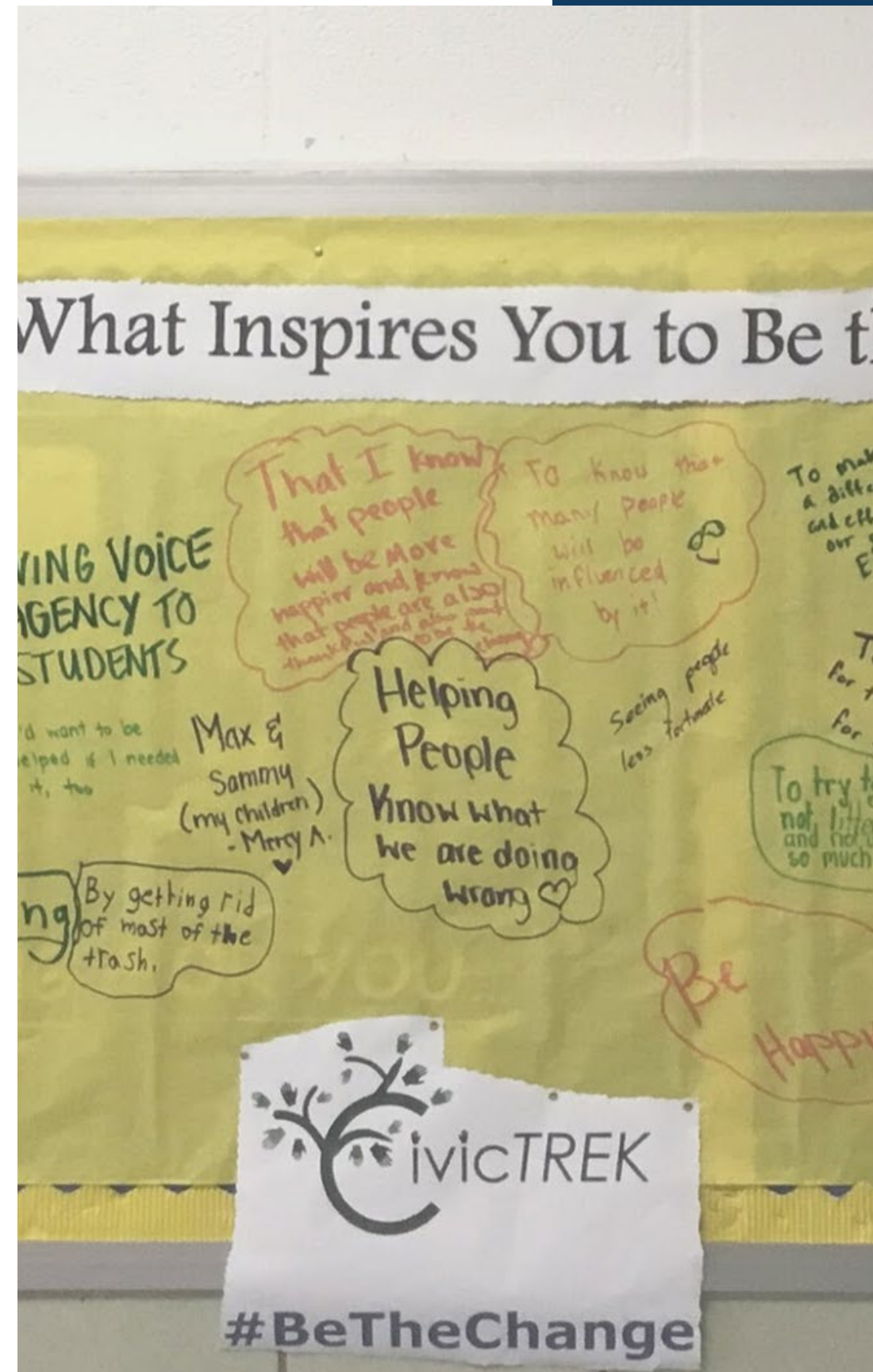




Service-Learning in
Alexandria City Public Schools



Introductions

Amanda Kropp, Alexandria City High School
Sarah Whelan, Alexandria City Public Schools

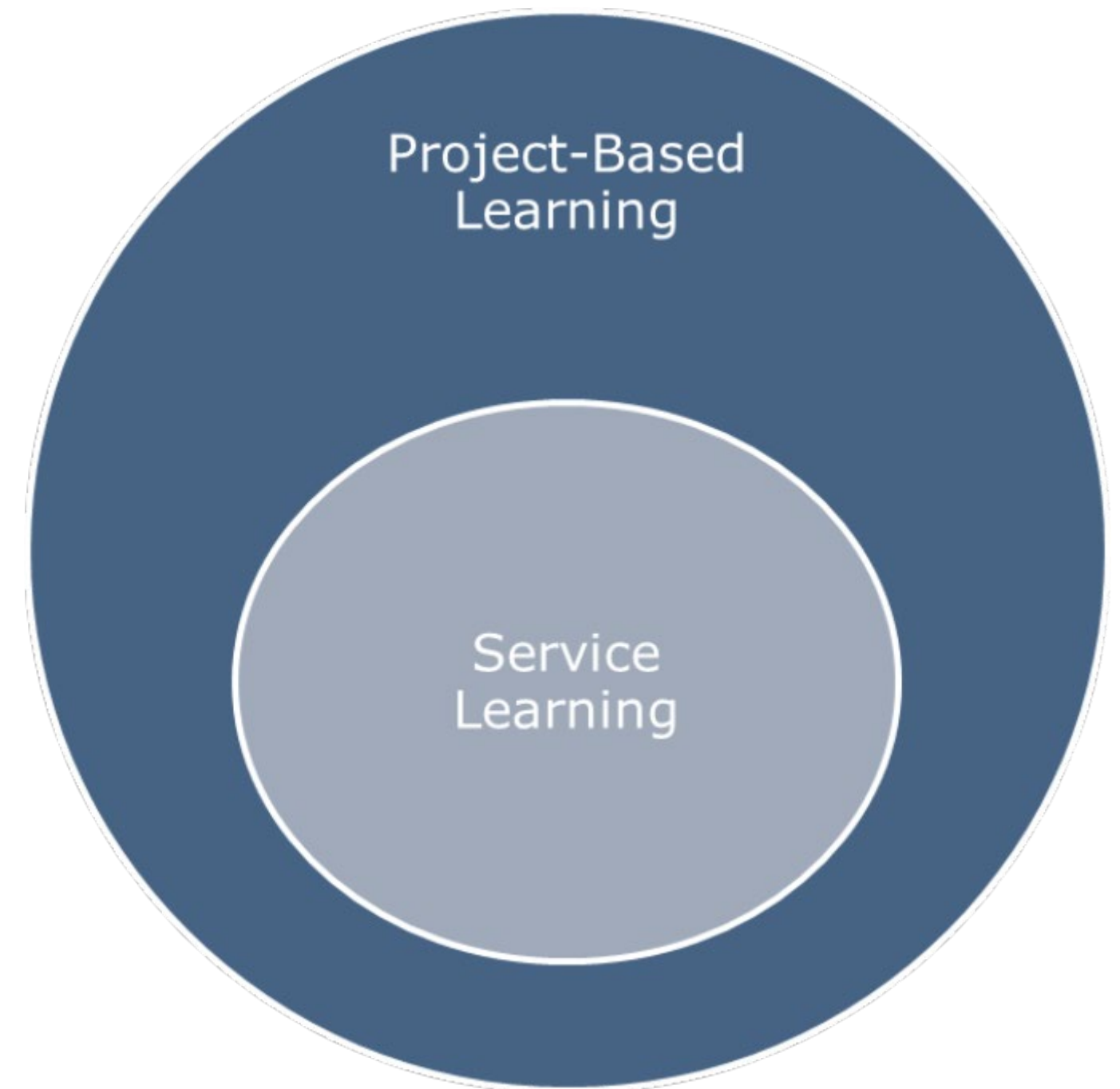
<https://blogs.acpsk12.org/civictrek>

PROJECT-BASED LEARNING

A teaching method in which students investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging, and complex question, problem, or challenge.

SERVICE-LEARNING

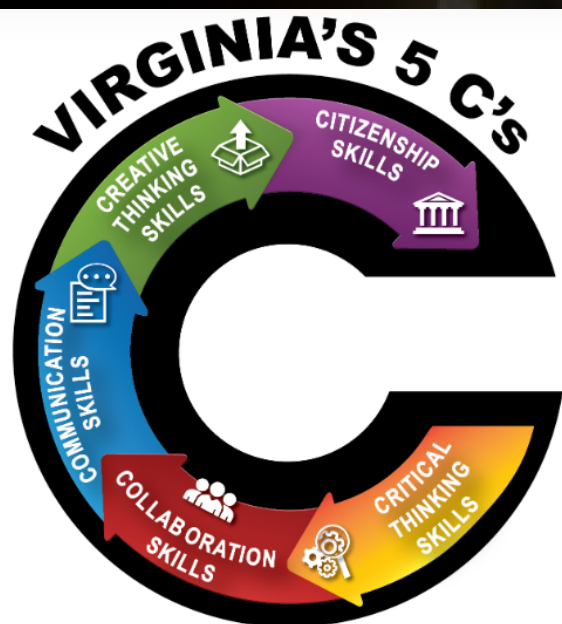
A teaching and learning strategy in which students integrate academic knowledge, skills, and reflective practice while addressing genuine community needs.



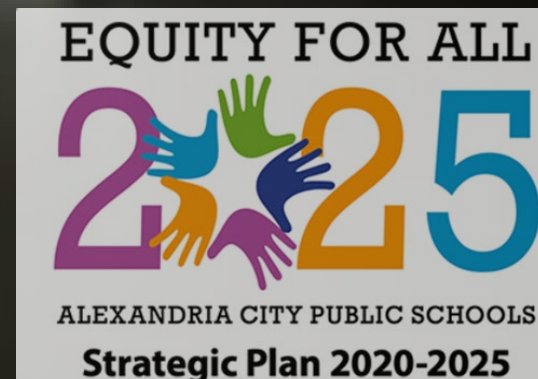


Why Project-Based Service-Learning?

Profile of an ACPS Learner



Virginia Department of Education



- Advocate
- Critical Thinker
- Collaborator
- Communicator
- Innovator
- Changemaker



Transformative SEL connotes a process whereby students and teachers build strong, respectful relationships founded on an appreciation of similarities and differences, learn to critically examine root causes of inequity, and develop collaborative solutions to community and societal problems.

-CASEL

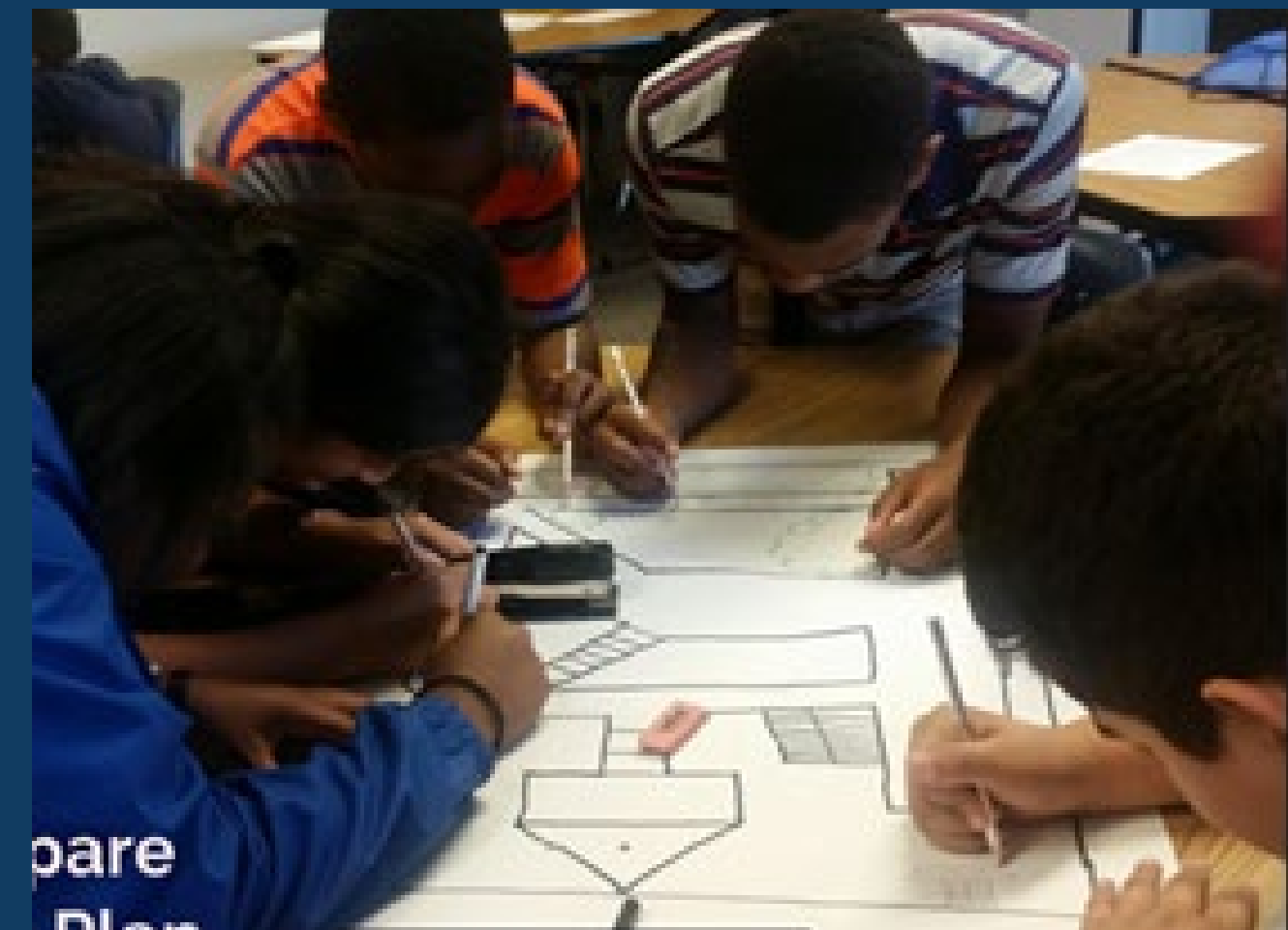
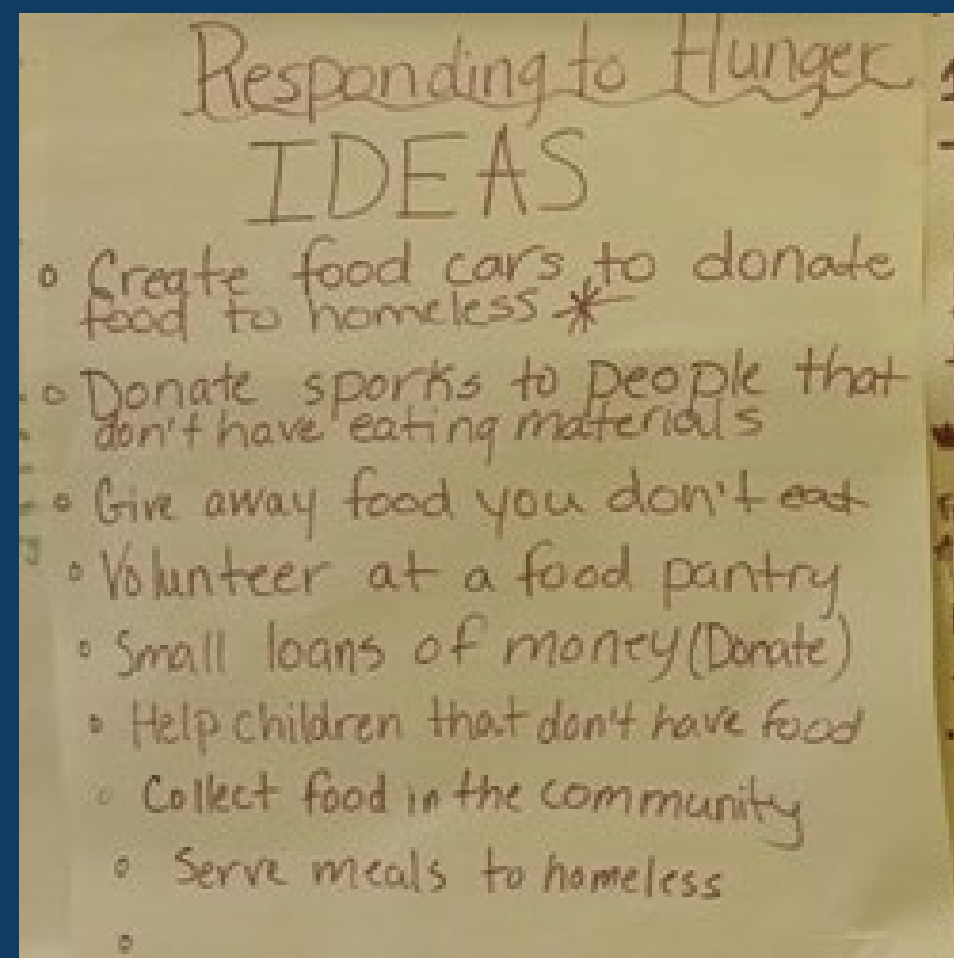


DRIVING QUESTION

How will we work together to empower students to make a change in our community?



How Do We Do Service-Learning?



CIVIC TREK TEACHER COHORT

- Choose a unit of study and work with students to design a service-learning project
- Teachers and students participate in an end-of year showcase to demonstrate learning
- Participants are encouraged to continue their project the following year and come back to share with the new cohort



Tackling
Read-World
Experiences for
Knowledge



Project Examples



Collecting Oral
Histories



Building a Little Free
Library



International
Academy Leadership



Students Connecting
Students to
Community
Resources



Changing the World
Through Your Community



Trash to Treasure

12th Grade CIVIC ACTION PROJECT & 8TH GRADE PROJECT CITIZEN

- All 12th grade government classes use a civic action project as the final course assessment
- All 8th grade classes - GWMS, FHMS, PH, and JH - participate in Project Citizen
- Students choose a public policy issue important to the Alexandria community. After researching the cause and effects of their issue, they develop an action plan with public policy solutions.



2024-2025 Titan Changemaker Listening Tour

- All 12th grade government classes participated feedback sessions for the next Children and Youth Master Plan
- 18 ACHS students facilitated the listening sessions to 8th grade civics classes at GWMS
- More sessions planned
 - 02/13 & 02/14: 20 sessions at Francis C. Hammond MS
 - 02/14: 3 sessions at Patrick Henry

How Much Have We Done So Far?



31 Listening Sessions have been delivered at Minnie Howard and King Street Campuses



18 ACHS students were trained to deliver 19 more Listening Sessions with students at George Washington Middle School (50 sessions total)



800+ students from ACHS & GWMS have been engaged so far



2,800 pieces of qualitative data ("quotes") have been collected and analyzed





Challenges & Barriers

- Access to community experiences
- Scope: size of student population
- Providing a public audience to respond to students' projects
- Authentic consideration of student voices
- Providing opportunities for community connections within the school day

Opportunities for Support & Growth

- Directory of Community Partners and Resources connected to local issues
- Develop a student commission partnership with the Children and Youth Community Plan team
 - Mayor's Youth Council
- Utilize service learning for 12th grade Senior Experience
- Global and Local Politics Seminar Class
 - Provide students experiential learning (guest speakers, internships)
- Transportation: Changemaker Shuttle?
- Formal partnership with the Children and Youth Commission with Academies of Alexandria

Discussion & Questions