

## **Telstar's Local Ecology and Aspirations Pathway**

SAD #44 - Telstar Middle High School

Mark Kenney, Principal

### **Overview:**

The Telstar RREV Design Team considered the following challenge statement when developing our innovation: **How might we develop an experiential pathway that connects our local economy, environment, and culture to challenges of past, present, and future sustainability so that students contribute in real time as active citizens exploring place-based career paths?**

The Local Ecology and Aspirations Pathway (LEAP) is a series of interactive, problem-based and process-oriented courses and learning experiences designed in partnership with community businesses, organizations and local leaders. The goal of this pathway is to; provide alternative methods for students to attain core academic credit, to help students engage with the community in a meaningful way, and develop relationships that help them define and refine their post secondary aspirations. Throughout their 4 years in high school, LEAP students will have choices in their coursework expanding their community experience into a more refined focus on career exploration of legacy and heritage industries; outdoor recreation, sustainable tourism, wood products, conservation, healthcare and small business innovation and entrepreneurship.

Course structures are designed around the place we live, connecting content in a local context. Students explore both past and present, empowering them to become informed partners in building a sustainable future. The pathway consists of a blend of required and choice courses, all of which have a place-based, experiential and community-based design that get students out of the classroom, learning and working in the world around them. In the 11th and 12th grades, students will use their community connections to embark on individual choice projects based around a need identified by the student and community and/or participate in a career experience (internship, work study, apprenticeship, etc), both of which are designed to focus their post secondary planning.

### **Pathway Goals:**

- Guide students in exploring local career opportunities
- Extend experiential learning options
- Connect students as change agents in community development
- Activate and engage community partners, connecting them to the learning process
- Connect economic, environmental, and social cultural elements of the community to explore future sustainability
- Develop a collaborative innovation mindset between students, teachers, and community
- Redefine content learning by connecting traditional concepts to real-world contexts
- Foster cross-sector partnerships
- Develop a vibrant local ecology
- To build a student's academic confidence and autonomy

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