

"Everybody has accepted by now that change is unavoidable. But that still implies that change is like death and taxes it should be postponed as long as possible and no change would be vastly preferable. But in a period of upheaval, such as the one we are living in, change is the norm." --Peter F. Drucker

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School Starts: Re-Invention Begins

In a sense our theme for this year "Re-Inventing Ourselves" is what happens every year when we begin school again in Fall. Every year we welcome students into classes and the hallmark of effective adult education is that we are student-centered. What the student needs and wants determines what our classes are like. And although, of course, there are similarities among students, every year there is the opportunity to assess what students want, re-think how we design and deliver instruction, and authentically assess whether the students have gotten what they need and want. As we have learned from the research, these first few weeks (the first contact an adult student has with the learning opportunity) is critical to his or her persistence and achievement of goals. The elements that have a significant impact are orienting the student to what the program or class is and how it works, facilitating the adult's identification of goals and how to achieve them, creating a welcoming environment and, perhaps most significantly, helping the adult student feel a part of a community, to **connect** with other students.

Our Re-Invention this year is larger than what happens to a student in a class; it may be systemic, comprehensive, and cause us to be a different school. Our funding crisis may demand such change. But still, what matters most to **learning** may still be that student's experience in a class, her connection with other students, and how we welcome her that first day of class.

Prof. Development Day: August 18 Agenda

- 8:30—9:00 Coffee and bagels**
- 9:00 – 10:00 State of the School**
- 10:00 – 10:30 Roadmap for Reinvention
– Schoolwide Action Plan**
- 10:30-10:45 Break**
- 10:45 – 11:00 Project-based Learning –
Definitions and goals**
- 11:00 – 12:00 Small Groups Working on
Project-Based Lessons**
- 12:00 – 12:30 Group share**
- 12:30 - 1:30 Potluck lunch –
all welcome**
- 1:30 - 2:00 SVFT and CSEA meetings**
- 2:00 – 4:00 Departmental Meetings**

All teachers are, of course, welcome. But this year we can only pay permanent teachers who have this day as a part of their contract year. You will also notice that in keeping with our effort to save money and "go green" the updated staff handbook and the Calendar of Events are available on the website, but won't be given to you in hard copy this year..

