

Amelia Earhart School

A California Distinguished School

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To Whom It May Concern:

Destination Imagination is an internationally recognized program that integrates creativity, critical thinking, cooperation and innovation. The DI Vision: to be the global leader in teaching the creative process from imagination to innovation and the DI Mission: to develop opportunities that inspire the global community of learners to utilize diverse approaches in applying 21st Century Skills and creativity are embodied in all program projects and challenges.

The Destination Imagination program encourages teams of learners to have fun, take risks, and frame challenges while incorporating STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), the arts, and service learning. The student participants learn patience, flexibility, persistence, ethics, respect for others and their ideas, and the collaborative problem solving process. The goal of Destination Imagination is to give students the chance to learn and experience the creative process. The creative process is about thinking and doing in no prescribed order. Some people "do" first and then think about what they have done, while others "think" first, then initiate action. Below are the components of the creative process that our participants experience while solving the Challenges.

Recognize:

- Becoming aware of a challenge, problem, or opportunity
- Having a healthy state of mind to explore new opportunities: positive attitude, readiness and
- alertness
- Fully understanding all the issues or points of the challenge or problem

Imagine:

- Applying thinking skills to develop options
- Employing divergent and convergent thinking
- Using creativity and critical thinking tools to help create ideas and then to find the best ones
- Being positive and listening to all ideas before judging them
- Encouraging intuitive insight and novelty
- Maximizing the ability to work within or outside of structure

Initiate:

- Initiating behavior and committing to an option
- Being willing to take risks; go beyond the minimum
- Controlling behavior (self-regulation) to manage impulsiveness

Collaborate:

- Using social intelligence
- Collaborating; understanding and using different problem-solving styles

Assess:

- Achieving the best solution
- Assessing the project while it is being done and after it is finished
- Sometimes starting over or admitting failure
- Making improvements to solutions as you learn more

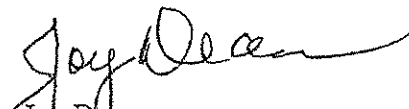
Evaluate:

- Evaluating results
- Celebrating the journey from imagination to innovation
- Reflecting on the experience, resources, and team dynamics
- Having team solutions appraised at a tournament

These skills are foundational to being highly successful with the Common Core Standards and NGSS across academic curricular areas.

Using DI curriculum guides, a parent facilitator works with a group of students (5-7) over sixteen weeks to do two distinct tasks: instant challenges and a longer term project in one of seven categories. At Earhart School we have used the Destination Imagination program as enrichment for our GATE and High Achieving students for four years. This year we sent seven teams (49 students) to the regional tournament in February. Five of the teams qualified for the State Tournament in Riverside in March. At the State Tournament three teams qualified to represent our state and Earhart School at the Global Finals for Destination Imagination at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tennessee on May 19-24. The eighteen students are proud of their accomplishment! Parents are eager to take this next step in learning with their students. The parent team is fund raising with corporate sponsorships and events to fully fund the trip for the students, six leader/ facilitators and chaperones (11 adults). Students began these projects and the DI program in October and have worked weekly or bi-weekly as a team for nearly six months. The teams are fourth and fifth grade students. One team qualified and attended Global Finals last year. The experienced team has shared their experience with the new teams. The consensus is that through attendance the students observe many other teams competing and bring innumerable skills and strategies back to integrate into their future experiences. In the next year, these teams will have the opportunity to mentor future teams with the knowledge from their experiences at the Global Finals.

Sincerely,



Joy Dean
Principal