Celebrations & Successes!

“iLEAD Schools Creating Authentic, High-Quality Project-Based Learning Environments”

~ iLEAD Lancaster as featured on GettingSmart.com
Facilitators at iLEAD Lancaster take a learner-centered, inquiry-based approach. Their primary goal is to develop the whole learner, allowing them to lead a successful and fulfilled life while contributing to the world around them. In classrooms where deeper learning is the focus, you find learners who are motivated and challenged — who look forward to their next assignment. They apply what they’ve learned in one subject to newly encountered situations in another. They can see how their classwork relates to real life. They gain indispensable knowledge, skills, and beliefs, including the following:

**Mastery of Core Academic Content:** Learners build their academic foundation in subjects like reading, writing, math, and science.

**Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving:** Learners know how to find, evaluate, and synthesize information to construct arguments. They can design their own solutions to complex problems.

**Collaboration:** Learners communicate and understand multiple points of view, and they know how to cooperate to achieve a shared goal.

**Effective Communication:** Learners communicate effectively in writing and in oral presentations. They structure information in meaningful ways, listen to and give feedback, and construct messages for particular audiences.

**Self-Directed Learning:** Learners set goals, monitor their own progress, and reflect on their own strengths and areas for improvement.

**A Growth Mind-set:** Learners trust their own abilities and believe their hard work will pay off, so they persist to overcome obstacles. They also learn from and support each other.
Each year, beginning in kindergarten, learners at iLEAD Lancaster set academic and social-emotional goals in their Individualized Learning Plan. Learners and facilitators work on these goals throughout the year and track progress in their Leadership Notebooks.

Each quarter, learners take the NWEA MAP assessments in English language arts and math. Based on the scores of the assessments, each learner receives an individual learning continuum. The learning continuum allows the facilitators and the learners work together to develop interventions and supports to meet their individual academic goals.

Learner-Led Conferences
Learners regularly present their strengths, work samples, progress toward their academic and social-emotional goals, and grades. During a learner-led conference, learners voice their assessment of their learning to their families, and facilitators attend for support only.

Showcases of Learning Presentation
At the end of the school year, each learner prepares a reflective presentation about their school year — their challenges, successes, obstacles, and growth. Showcases of learning are a key experience, allowing learners to be acknowledged by their community, inviting the community to witness the achievements of the learners, and ensuring accountability.

iLEAD Lancaster is a full-inclusion model of instruction in which special education service providers push into the classroom. Five education specialists collaborate closely with the general education facilitators to provide academic support to learners with special education needs. The Student Support team also includes a speech therapist, occupational therapist, school counselors, and a school psychologist.

Mathematics
◊ Small group instruction
◊ Edmentum
◊ Bridges Intervention program
◊ Mathematics coach and tutors
◊ Professional Development in mathematics interventions
◊ System of support

ELA
◊ Small group instruction
◊ Edmentum
◊ Lexplore
◊ Literacy coaches
◊ Professional Development on reading and writing
◊ System of support
## Distance Learning

In response to the global pandemic of COVID-19, iLEAD Lancaster was able to transition to distance learning the day after schools were ordered closed in March. Knowing it was imperative to stay connected with families and engaged with learners, the school quickly distributed Chromebooks, MacBooks, and iPADs as well as hotspots to children in need. The team offered Zoom and PowerSchool tutorials for learners and parents to support the sudden change to schooling at home. Facilitators used a variety of means to make assignments available to the learners in the easiest ways possible. Daily Zoom calls were held to go over assignments as well as continue social-emotional connection and development. Coming into the 2020-21 school year, the team maintained the consistency of a typical school day by providing an even more structured schedule. This schedule was developed to remain the same and follow the learning community back to campus when permitted as part of the hybrid plan: two days on campus and two days virtual. The team’s goal was to maintain as much consistency as possible for the learners and families.

## Interventions

Based on data gathered from assessments including NWEA MAP, Fountas and Pinnell, and Words Their Way, individualized intervention plans are created for learners who are two or more grade levels behind. These interventions consist of a pull-out program and a robust tutoring program.

To support their intervention programs, iLEAD Lancaster uses various online platforms, including Bridges, Edmentum, and Epic, as well as one-on-one and small-group support. Small-group support for math and English language arts is embedded in the learner’s schedule twice per week to provide remediation in key areas, helping learners succeed during grade-level academic instruction. Weekly intervention has improved overall student growth in core academic areas.
Community Support: Our school counselors strive to meet the needs of our learners and their families by establishing partnerships with human services in the community, including One Love Ministry, Antelope Valley Partners for Health, and Masada Homes. Through these partnerships, the iLEAD Lancaster team is able to connect families with support ranging from clothing and food to social services, mental health care, tutoring, and mentoring on topics including substance abuse, restorative justice, and antibullying. iLEAD Lancaster counselors help families align best practices at school and at home. In addition, each week during distance learning, learners are invited to bring a snack or lunch to socialize and connect with friends via video conference while also connecting with school counselors for social-emotional support and guidance.

Chronic Absentee Support Program: The iLEAD Lancaster team understand that their community has a traditionally high transient population, which increases chronic absentee percentages. In response, the team created a support team comprised of the counseling department, registrar, a student liaison, and administration. This team conducts meetings with families to assess needs, makes home visits, and develops a support plan specific to each family. The wraparound support iLEAD Lancaster provides families has increased learner participation and attendance.

Makery: With a focus on design thinking and experiential learning, the iLEAD Lancaster team opened the Makery to empower learners to develop woodworking and mechanical skills. In the Makery, learners can create models of projects they design in their classes or bring to life their 3D renders from the Exploratorium.

Exploratorium Backpack Project: In an effort to send the iLEAD Lancaster Exploratorium experience home, the team packed Creative Learning Systems backpacks with STEAM kits to empower learners at home to actively explore coding, engineering, graphic design, creative thinking, problem-solving, robotics, and more.
DreamUp To Space & Genes In Space: Learners design experiments focusing on the effects of microgravity to ultimately be conducted on the International Space Station. iLEAD Lancaster learners have sent one experiment to the ISS and sent another in the spring of 2020.

Soaring & Aeronautics: Learners study aeronautics in 8th grade as part of their science curriculum and have the opportunity to fly a glider.

Innovations Garden Project: Innovation Studios converted an unused area of iLEAD Lancaster grounds into a legacy garden and kindergarten play space. The learners gained hands-on experience, developing a needs-based assessment and cost analysis for the project. The learners sought and received a grant from Home Depot to prepare the grounds for the next stage of development.

Trout in the Classroom: Trout in the Classroom is sponsored by the State of California’s Department of Fish and Wildlife. iLEAD Lancaster kindergarteners raise trout from eggs to fingerlings before releasing them into a local lake. Learners observe and document the trout life cycle, healthy habitats, fish anatomy, and the importance of environmental conservation.

Snack Shack: After learning about nutrition and healthy food options, iLEAD Lancaster second graders work as business partners to develop a healthy, marketable snack for their consumers, the iLEAD Lancaster community. They fill in their business plans, which includes a business name, snack name, description, profits and losses, and strategies to increase profits. Learners also research marketing pieces, such as advertisements, billboards, commercials, slogans, and art, to make their product appealing.

Leadership Within U: iLEAD Lancaster seventh graders created leadership teams to encourage all iLEAD learners to embrace iLEAD culture. Learners defined leadership, developed leadership skills, and established roles in the iLEAD community. The following learner-led leadership roles were formed: Valet Ushers, Big Mentor and Little, Beautification Team, Safety Ambassador, Activity Director, Club/Sport Director, Design Team, 7 Habits Ambassador.

Collaborative Projects: For the first time, iLEAD Lancaster’s youngest and oldest learners, kindergarteners and eighth graders, executed a collaborative presentation. Eighth graders developed empathy and compassion for the younger learners, and kindergarteners gained big buddies. In this collaborative project, called Waves of Change, learners researched and discussed how microplastics affect the various trophic levels and the animals that inhabit the ocean.

COVID-19 Time Capsule: After the move to distance learning, iLEAD Lancaster third graders were challenged to think of how the virus impacted them, their families, and their community. Learners documented their experiences in an authentic way, preparing slideshows and videos to present their time capsule projects exploring the driving question “How can I use my knowledge of COVID-19 to reflect and capture a glimpse of our present for the future?”
**Community & Parent Support**

**ELAC:** iLEAD Lancaster’s English Learner Advisory Committee meets monthly and is comprised of parents of English language learners. Families receive information about current school activities and programs and are encouraged to express their concerns and ideas. ELAC also offers training on several topics, including legal issues affecting English language learners, reading and homework techniques, 7 Habits, and more.

**Parent Newsletters:** Facilitators send out weekly grade-levels emails highlighting the specifics of weekly school life, including academics, upcoming events, projects, and tutoring opportunities.

**ED Talk:** iLEAD Lancaster hosts an ED Talk each month. The administrative team provides information on school topics and invites families to collaborate.

**iSUPPORT:** iLEAD Lancaster’s family volunteer group, iSUPPORT, meets at least once per month to discuss and organize upcoming events, school fundraising, and community events. iLEAD Lancaster encourages families to volunteer 40 hours per school year in any capacity they are available, including supporting staff and learners on campus.

**7 Habits University Workshops:** iLEAD Lancaster embraces and applies the 7 Habits daily. Based on the book by Dr. Stephen Covey, the 7 Habits are based on proven universal principles, such as integrity, justice, honesty, and human dignity. iLEAD Lancaster implements the 7 Habits and provides training at no cost in order to empower families to support their learners in becoming more effective at school, at home, and for their future roles within the community.

**Monday Message:** iLEAD Lancaster sends a weekly online publication to all families and the community. The Monday Message provides a wealth of information on curriculum, on-campus events and family learning opportunities, community events, health and nutrition, fundraisers and more.
Campus Life & Clubs

Kindness Club
Little Entrepreneurs
Sign Language Club
Gamers Club
Robotics Club
Little Makers
Art Club
Dancing Feet (Ballroom Dancing)
iSUPPORT
iSPIRIT

Annual Events

Meet the Facilitator
Back to School Night
Fall Festival
Costume Parade
Multicultural Feast
Winter Boutique (Entrepreneurial Faire)
Winter Production
MLK Day of Service
Full Steam Ahead
Backyard Bash

Professional Learning

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People
Leader in Me
Daily 5/CAFE
Lucy Calkins Reading and Writing
**Hayden Byrd**  
*A passion for rescuing*  
During her Passion Project, Hayden used the momentum of her project to create and manage a fundraiser for Mutt Hutt Rescue. The fundraiser was able to donate hundreds of items totaling several thousand dollars!

**DreamUp Team**  
*Sending a dream experiment using Aloe Vera into space*  
Our DreamUp Team developed a science project that will take place on the International Space Station as well as here on Earth. The learners linked several studies about the health benefits of aloe vera and proposed how using aloe vera would beneficially impact the astronauts during space travel.

**Audrey Miranda Linares**  
*Inspiring others with a passion for the arts*  
Audrey has developed her leadership skills here at iLEAD Lancaster. Within the last few years she has started and developed an Art Club that meets two days a week and provides art projects and inspiration to a large group of learners. Audrey recruited several adult mentors to help her with leadership and guidance.

**Jolene Simpson**  
*Sharing her passion for reading with younger learners*  
Jolene Simpson started a fantastic reading opportunity called the “Read to Me” program on our campus! Every week, a group of 4th and 5th grade learners takes turn reading books, using various props like puppets, to 1st grade learners. All the learners really look forward to this enriching and engaging time of the week.

**iLEAD involves my child in the learning process as an active learner. My child’s facilitators also make my child feel special, confident and capable.**  
~ iLEAD Lancaster Parent