

## Leveraging Community Connections to Amplify Authentic Learning

### A Planning Guide for Educators

Consider the following guiding questions as you prepare for engagement with a community partner to ensure a high-quality experience for all stakeholders.

Guiding questions for <b>BEFORE</b> engagement with a community partner:	Status
<p><b>Purpose:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identify the ways the community connection amplifies the project or unit of study</li> <li>● List the purpose and intended outcomes of the community connection experience</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Started <input type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Under Review <input type="checkbox"/> Done
<p><b>Logistics:</b> Identify all necessary logistics, including the following..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● location (virtual or in-person)</li> <li>● beginning and ending time</li> <li>● parking and entry needs</li> <li>● transportation needs</li> <li>● permission slips</li> <li>● medical forms and information</li> <li>● plans for meals / snacks</li> <li>● agenda</li> <li>● fees</li> <li>● appropriate attire</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Started <input type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Under Review <input type="checkbox"/> Done
<p><b>Communication:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identify stakeholders needing to know about the community connection experience, i.e. students, guardians, other teachers, admin, nurse, counselors, etc.</li> <li>● Communicate necessary logistics with appropriate stakeholders, whether through email, phone, in-person conversation, or other avenues</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Started <input type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Under Review <input type="checkbox"/> Done
<p><b>Community Connection Preparation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Share purpose and all necessary logistics with the community partner</li> <li>● Design the experience alongside the community partner by discussing the following..             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ engagement strategies, like opportunities for students to discuss, ask questions, reflect, do a hands-on activity, etc.</li> <li>○ strategic breaks, like opportunities for students to move, take a brain break, etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Started <input type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Under Review <input type="checkbox"/> Done

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ agenda</li> <li>○ supplementary materials needed, i.e. notecatchers, slidedecks, sticky notes, etc.</li> <li>○ any specific student information pertinent to the experience</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Student Preparation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Share purpose and all necessary logistics with students</li> <li>● Share necessary materials students should bring or have access to</li> <li>● Consider and/or co-create with students the following... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Preview of the community partner or venue</li> <li>○ Create a “know” and “need-to-know” list</li> <li>○ Develop interview questions</li> <li>○ Design method to capture thinking and artifacts, i.e. notecatcher, photos, etc.</li> <li>○ Behavioral expectations</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Started <input type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Under Review <input type="checkbox"/> Done

Guiding questions for <b>DURING</b> engagement with a community partner:	Status
<p><b>Expectations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Method to capture and provide in-the-moment feedback for students</li> <li>● Strategies for re-directs, grouping, emergencies, etc.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Started <input type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Under Review <input type="checkbox"/> Done
<p><b>Documentation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Method for you, the educator, to capture the information and the experience</li> <li>● Method for students to capture their learning and the experience</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Started <input type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Under Review <input type="checkbox"/> Done

Guiding questions for <b>AFTER</b> engagement with a community partner:	Status
<p><b>Reflection:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Method to reflect on the experience individually, in small groups, and as a whole class</li> <li>● Opportunity for students to share and apply their learning</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Started <input type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Under Review <input type="checkbox"/> Done
<p><b>Follow-Up with Community Connection:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students write a thank-you message with specifics about their learning and experience</li> <li>● Educator follow-up with potential future connections</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Started <input type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Under Review <input type="checkbox"/> Done