

Todd Parr

Poway High School
15500 Espola Rd.
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Dear Parents:

Your son/daughter is enrolled in my Computer Graphics class this year. We will be using a new and different model for learning and grading in this class and I wanted you to understand what we are doing and why.

The approach that we will be using in this class is called “Consultant Learning.” The Consultant Learning approach turns the classroom into a mini economy by “paying” the student consulting fees for completing projects, and then basing the student’s grade on the amount of consulting fees the student has earned during the semester. Students are free to choose how many projects they wish to complete, a few projects earning a “C” and lots of projects earning an “A.”

All projects must be completed with excellent quality or they are returned to the student to be redone. Mediocre and poor quality work receives no credit until it is improved to excellent quality work.

This approach allows the students to select or design projects they want to complete based on things they are interested in and care about. The student sets the deadlines for when those projects will be due. Students learn to schedule their own time and complete work without an adult telling them what they must do and when it is due. The Consultant Learning approach treats students as adults, giving them more freedom, but also giving them full responsibility for their own actions (or lack of action).

Many of the suggested projects your student may work on include “real-world” activities, such as designing Business Logos, CD packages and Corporate Web Pages. If you ask, “Do you have any homework,” and the student says “No,” they may be accurate because they don’t have anything with a deadline, but they have the freedom to work on their own projects for this course at their own pace.

If you have any questions about this methodology, please contact me and I will be happy to discuss the approach and your student’s progress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Parr", is written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Todd Parr