

Deborah Meier (2002) once said public schools are the best vehicle for nourishing the extraordinary untapped capacities of all our children. Yet public schools have become places children dread going. Today's kids are taught to read, write and do math at an earlier age than ever before yet have disengage with learning. Makerspaces are one answer to this problem. Makerspaces are the trend in public education, but what is really a Makerspace? Makerspaces come in many different forms but should be vested in constructivist learning principles. Constructivist learning principles offer students agency in their learning and provide the opportunity to engage in inquiry learning. When we engage students by offering opportunities to explore, we open up powerful learning experiences that could not be encounter any other way (Elkind, 2007). This instructional best practice can negate passive learning, allowing students a voice in creating meaningful learning opportunities, resulting in a broader and deeper understanding of what is being learned.

This presentation will discuss the following questions:

1. What is a Makerspace?
2. Is a makerspace right for our school?
3. How do you set up a Makerspace?
4. How will it drive change in your school?