

Thinking Differently



... A head of school perspective

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ISSUE #1

BIG SKY COMMUNITY
SCHOOL

HOW MIGHT WE CHANGE THE LEARNING LANDSCAPE?

Changing education to be more autonomous encourages students to pursue their individual interests and passions. Pursuits and mentorships allow learners to gain real-world experience and personalized guidance from experts in various fields. Flexible scheduling gives students the freedom to learn at their own pace and choose times that suit their natural rhythms. This approach fosters a sense of ownership and intrinsic motivation, making learning more meaningful, all while building deeper connections to the outdoors, which can promote experiential learning and environmental stewardship. When we participate in outdoor activities, we not only enhance our physical health but also boost our creativity and mental well-being. Autonomous education models that blend guided learning from nearby adults challenge traditional classroom boundaries, offering more adaptable and engaging learning environments. They also help students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills through independent projects. Ultimately, transforming education to include pursuits, mentorships, and outdoor experiences prepares students for a dynamic and interconnected world alongside an authentic and demanding online learning platform.

WHAT I'M READING



New Happy by Stephanie Harrison. Basically, a guidebook about finding “new” ways to find happiness. Using so many colorful and simple graphics helps me navigate tough days. Also gives me hope that we can contribute to a better world. This week’s favorite life-advice-graphic [HERE](#) about how we learn.

WHAT I'M LISTENING TO



Superhumans Podcast. *All episodes are AHHHmazing!* I have been very fortunate to be exposed to and work with humans from HATCH. These are some of their stories. Grab some tissues, a journal and a pencil, and reflect on some crazy sh*t. We hope to bring our HS-aged students to the next HATCH Adventure!

James McMurtry's newest album- *Black Dog and the Wandering Boy* Like his father, Larry (Lonesome Dove), his lyrical high browning allows you to get lost in the unique and honest way he spins current political and social inequities. My favorite: *Sailing Away*

THOUGHTS I'M EXPLORING

I started meditating this summer. Then I became busier, and the first thing I let go of or stopped practicing was meditation. Why is it that when I find something that works and makes me a better human, feel more comfortable in my own skin, it becomes the first thing I let go of? Then I listened to this from Dan Harris (one of the only podcasts I listen to with some clarity and consistency)... mind-blowing... practice grace and self-compassion... love yourself, don't judge yourself!

OTHER..

Some other things that are on my mind lately... Fangoria, The Team That Doesn't Dribble, and Dezeen

Watching and listening...? Master Shi Heng Yi... is pretty much blowing my mind and those who know me, that's the best critic advice "Roger and Ebert stuff" I can give! Dive deep into his YouTube posts... this one is where I started, and it can become a tunnel of awareness... and craziness

Binge-watching ... *Swagger* is cool... *True Story* is funny, *You* is always weird and good, although the first season is the best, and *Into the Wild* is always a good check into "what you know in the world, can save you later"... but the coolest mind-numbing and culturally unique show was *Harder They Fall*. *Loved it, but fairly gruesome, and I'm a western movie fan, and not sure if any of them are historically accurate, but this one was just good.* The soundtrack is dope.

Martin Sexton... Martin and I (and my dad) have some LONG STORIED history... SEE HERE... regardless, I just love the dude. His songs bring you to places that are comfortable and happy, nostalgic, remorseful, and often places you are about to go. His newer album (yes this should be in "what I'm listening to"..) is *Best Of* and it's purely timeless. He is also a great soul who just wants people to be happy and enjoy the smallest and largest things in life. Spending time with him, although briefly, makes you want to be your best vulnerable self. Listening to him can take you places you might not have explored yet or may bring you back to places you want to return to. Have fun!

UPCOMING AND EXCITING...

Friday Adventures

- 9/12: AM- Fly-fishing the Gally, PM- SpART at the Arts Council Studio
- 9/19: AM/PM- A Day in Yellowstone
- 9/26: Big Sky Art Walk
- 10/3: Student Choice - camping adventure at Swan Creek?

Community School Pictures

- 10/17 - get your hair done, new school picture outfits dialed, and meet at Hummocks Trailhead - details to come

Overnight Learning Opp

- 10/23-24- MT Youth Climate Summit - details to come

Words of the week

- oops (but now I know I can fix it)
- both/and (include several ways to solve)

Curiosities

- Where can we find balance in our day?
- How do we manage our time?
- How can Savvy help us learn and solve problems? (ask your student who Savvy is!)



JEREMY
HEAD OF SCHOOL

"I MAY NOT HAVE GONE WHERE I INTENDED TO GO, BUT I THINK I HAVE ENDED UP WHERE I NEEDED TO BE." - D. ADAMS