

# NourishED

Growing Together Through Inquiry

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Hello inspiring educators,

Our students inquire, "Is this enough to pass?"

We all know there's more to learning than that...

Ron Berger, a public school teacher in western Massachusetts for 25 years and collaborator on the Expeditionary Learning Outward Bound school network, Harvard Project Zero, and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, encourages us to think outside of our current perimeters of schooling, beyond passing grades and checking off graduation requirements. Berger shares his vision of our role as educators below.

*"It's not 'Just complete this worksheet,' or 'Just try to get a good test score,' or 'Try to be proficient.' Who gets excited about being proficient? When you're proud of your work, when it's beautiful, you're motivated to work harder. Kids practice their gymnastics, practice their flute, practice their soccer skills because they want to be great. Not to be proficient. And I feel like that's what school should be about. It should be about inspiring kids to want to be great!"*

I showed Berger's words to my students, and asked for their thoughts,

*"I think it's inspiring."*

*"This would be the dream."*

*"It would be really great. I'd like to go to a school like that. I feel like it'd make me actually want to be there."*

*"I agree with (Berger). I just don't know how we can do it in our current system..."*

*"Yeah, everybody's always talking about change. But, I'm not feeling it."*

I think that's where we, educators, come in.

What could that look like? Students regularly produce great, meaningful, beautiful work they're proud of. Students chase greatness rather than proficiency. The "Is it enough?" question shifts away from an external focus of "Is it enough for my teacher?" to an internal one, "Is it enough for me?"

Some practices come to my mind...

- Culture of critique
- Open ended projects/ assignments
- Authentic audiences
- Collaboration
- Inquiry-based/ Project-based/ Problem-based learning
- Building capability (and awareness of it) within individual students

## Which would you try?

### About NourishED

NourishED is an educator-led digital platform where we pursue curiosities and challenges of practice—you don't need to agree with my opinions above to join. We seek to inspire educators and to impact our Oklahoman school system at large. We value and need all of your voices.

Please find us at our **website**, and be sure to check out our latest **webinar**!