

Elementary

Current Design Challenge

How might we create opportunities for students to find inspiration in the curriculum and each other so they take ownership of their learning?

In the interest of equity, how might we improve our Portuguese guided reading practice in order to help our students achieve the same reading levels in Portuguese as they do in English?

How might we create a process leading to a cohesive learning experience for all students so that an alternative service delivery model is ready to test in September 2018?

Current Outcome

Co-designed learning centers, created by Kindergarteners for Kindergarteners.

On-going collaborative observations using a student-centered rubric.

Portuguese Guided Reading books created by Ola teachers with support from administration. New bookroom on Cambridge Street will include Portuguese materials in 2019.

Prototype shared with whole staff about a 3rd grade cohesive approach to reading instruction involving general educators and special educators. 20 staff members volunteered to discuss next steps for continuation.

Upper School

Current Design Challenge

How might we create an environment that supports positive math mindsets and high achievement for all scholars?

How might we help all students access computer science curriculum at the middle school level?

How might we support educators in Cambridge to create and critically analyze “rigorous, joyful, and culturally responsive” teaching and learning so that they increasingly disrupt and dismantle patterns of inequity in Cambridge?

Current Outcome

Upper school math scholars sharing stories of why math feels more inclusive and less divisive.

Members of the ICTS department, CRLS Computer Science teachers and students, and community partners will present a variety of computer science activities to 6th graders at each upper school in the month of June.

The launch of a learning network of educators that collaborate, share practices, critically analyze and document their experiments.

High School

Current Design Challenge

How might we create an authentic experience where students can voice, address and take meaningful action on issues in their community so they have agency in creating effective change?

How might we design and launch a “Global Civics” course at CRLS and, under it, address challenging issues at the school and the district by means of civil discourse and consensus building?

How might we change the culture of the CRLS community so that students feel empowered to access and use information literacy and instructional technology for their achievement?

Current Outcome

High school students working with administration to find ways to revise scheduling to create more student-centered and student-directed forums. (Student Design Labs: Glocal, After school dLab and MathScapes)

A focus group was convened of students, educators, and administrators to think about the launch of a course.

The launch of a CRLS “Ideas Desk” is planned for the fall/winter. The fall will consist of branding and promotion. The pilot program will be launched in the winter.

District

Current Design Challenge

How might we incorporate more Spanish into the everyday lives of 4th graders?

How might we create a summer portal to ease access for parents and educators so that important information can be shared more easily?

How might we create a structure that allows general educators, special educators, and other service providers to regularly collaborate around supporting students' transitions and aligning our expectations to facilitate and document student growth?

Current Outcome

Multiple prototypes for the Peabody and Morse School that educators and administration agreed were successful. Takeaways and recommendations for rollout into 5th grade.

A Title One Summer Camp Portal shared with leadership teams in CPS K-5 schools.

A new bi-weekly school-based meeting with general educators, special educators, and service providers collaborating around the needs of students. Implications for more district impact around inclusive practices.

Community

Current Design Challenge

How might families use community spaces to interact with math in natural and positive ways?

How might we better engage youth in planning their school year and summer internship opportunities with the Community Development Department?

How might we create an environment where C.I.Ts (counselors in training) can feel impactful in community programs?

Current Outcome

A local-design process that involves schools and the greater community in creating engaging installations for families.

MIT Hackathon to create prototypes.

Application for a Federal Grant submitted in April to help support this effort.

Collaborations with the potential Global Civics Course and HSEP are also happening.

A new approach to interviewing and incorporating the backgrounds and cultures of C.I.Ts into programming (including more daily reflection).