

PFFS 8th Grade Graduation Portfolio

Essential Question: As a learner, what are your areas of strength, stretches, improvement and passions as you graduate from the 8th grade?

What is it: Your 8th grade portfolio represents the hard work and accomplishments achieved at PFFS. It will consist of a portfolio of your work (with artifacts and written reflection), your personal philosophy of environmental stewardship and social justice, and a round table presentation.

Why: This process will provide you with the opportunity to observe your growth, evaluate your work and reflect upon your PFFS experience – both academically and through the lens of your Habits of Heart and Mind.

Note: Successfully completing the 8th Grade Portfolio process is a requirement for promotion to high school.

Process:

- I. Collection – Gathering work/artifacts from classes and experiences
- II. Selection – Choosing what you will include in your portfolio
- III. Reflection – Thinking about your learning experiences and setting future goals
- IV. Presentation – Sharing your portfolio and answering questions before a panel
- V. Conclusion – Receiving evaluation and feedback from panel

The Steps

I. Collection – All PFFS students should save work in your binders under 3 categories:

- Core Discipline Areas (Math, Science, Humanities, Spanish)
- Learning Lab & Electives
- Expeditions & Intersession

Work can be student assignments, photos, videos, or other artifacts. Choose great and not-so-great work that will show your strength, stretches, areas of improvement and passions. You will choose from these pieces in the next step.

II. Selection – Choose work that demonstrates learning (achievement, improvement, passion). We highly recommend that you include work from previous years (if you have been at PFFS for more than one year) in order to show growth. You will need to select the following:

Note: You may create up to 5 alternative reflections (not written essays). An alternative to a written reflection may be a video, collage, PowerPoint, dramatic interpretation, etc. However, if you choose to present reflections in more than one alternative medium, each alternative reflection must be in a different medium (cannot all be collages) and each alternative reflection must address all of the required components (i.e. areas of strength, stretches, etc.)

General Reflection on your PFFS Experience – You have so many memories of your time at PFFS! You have suffered, celebrated, laughed, cried, grown, matured, and learned tons! This is your introductory statement for your portfolio and a chance to try to sum up your experience. Here are some prompts that might help you get started:

- Most memorable experience, most valuable learning experience
- Who you are now vs. who you were when you
- People at PFFS who have made a difference to you and why
- Why you are glad you came to this school.
- An important turning point in your middle school life

Habits of Heart & Mind – These 7 habits have been identified as habits that will not only be important for your success as Middle School students, but will serve you well for your entire life. Write about your strengths and stretches and use specific examples.

- **Action:** How do I make things happen?
- **Reflection:** What have I learned?
- **Evidence:** What makes something believable and convincing?
- **Care:** How can I be kind and supportive?
- **Inquiry:** What do I want to know?
- **Perspective:** Whose viewpoints should I consider?
- **Expression:** How do I share what I think, know, and feel?

Statement of Philosophy – During your time at PFFS you have been exposed to many aspects of Environmental Stewardship and Social Justice. You will have formed opinions. In a piece of writing or creative expression, explain your beliefs. Is it important to be concerned about the environment? What matters most to you? What do you believe is the responsibility of an individual/the government? Where do you fit in the picture? What have you learned over the years at PFFS that might influence your future actions?

Service Project – During your 8th grade year you are required to complete a minimum of 10 hours on a service project of your own (one that you have created) or a minimum of 20 hours working at existing service projects - both options are to be completed outside of regular school hours. Your service should grow out of

your philosophical stand on social justice and/or environmental sustainability. For example, if you believe it is the job of every American to conserve energy, perhaps you can lead your family through a home-energy audit. For those needing help with ideas, we will provide guidance, but the work and passion must be your own.

IV. Presentation – You must present your portfolio to a panel of judges made up of the following people:

- Your advisor
- A second staff person
- A parent(s) and/or guardian
- A community mentor
- A peer (you can have more than one come, but only one is official)

The Roundtable presentation will last approximately 45 minutes and will follow these steps:

- 1. Introduction** (5 minutes) Advisor/facilitator will explain the procedure and introduce the panel
- 2. Preview Materials** (10 minutes) – The presenter will read the General Reflection and then allow time for panelists to examine student’s work
- 3. Student Presentation** (10 minutes) Student reflects on experience. This is not a written script. Student should practice what about his/her learning experience including three specific examples that s/he would like to highlight. Student may refer to specific pieces of work or written reflections, but should not read all.
- 4. Roundtable Dialogue** (15 minutes) Panelists and presenter will have a conversation about the work. Panelists may share warm and cool feedback and ask questions. Presenter will respond to feedback and questions.
- 5. Roundtable Deliberation** (5 minutes) After presenter leaves the room, the panel discusses the presentation using the presentation rubric. All voices should be heard. Advisor uses the feedback to make final assessment.
- 6. Debriefing** (5 minutes) Presenter is invited back to room and feedback is shared. Presenter is informed of 3 possibilities
 - Presenter has successfully completed the 8th Grade Portfolio Requirement
 - There are some concerns about the presentation. The Advisor will share these concerns with the Administration to determine next steps.
 - Presenter has not successfully completed the 8th Grade Portfolio Requirement and a future Presentation will need to be rescheduled

V. Conclusion - Immediately after the Roundtable Panel Presentation, you will fill out a reflection sheet about the experience. You will also write thank you notes for those people who have helped you through the process.

Good Luck and Have Fun!