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DreamIT Final Reflection
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Over the course of this school year, my main focus started with integrating my Algebra I class with our Physics first course. As my process of creating and developing integrated assignments and projects for my Algebra I class, I started to develop an interest in problem based learning. Which essentially brought me to my current state of mind and areas of interest, trying to implement problem based curricula and incorporating real world phenomena or problems to introduce math concepts.

I would love for my students to be able to apply the mathematics they learn in class to solve problems and find a practical use for such logical reasoning and thinking involved in mathematics. However, students do not always see the immediate power of mathematics and struggling through a problem to develop a sense of curiosity and deeper understanding. This struggle will help students see the meaning and power of mathematics, while developing critical character traits as a learner.

This struggle lends itself well to the idea of grit and perseverance as a critical component of learning – a lesson that is often neglected to be discussed in our everyday classrooms. We often come to a problem A and quickly expect to come to a solution B; but authentic problems and learning do not work that way. The real learning occurs through the experimentation and failures which are not often enough acknowledged and appreciated. This struggle is what I want all my students to understand – that real learning occurs through attempting, failing, and trying again. That real learning occurs through the process. That real learning occurs through experimentation. That real learning occurs

when you put yourself out there and become comfortable with being uncomfortable. That real learning does not come easy.

Overall, the DreamIT project has helped me reflect on my practice, push me to continue trying to think outside the box, and come full circle with my larger goals. At the end of the year, aside from learning mathematics, I want my students to develop an understanding of how mathematics and physics are related, how to problem solve even when they cannot necessarily figure something out with the information provided, and have the determination to fight through the struggles to figure out a problem.