

7th Grade Project Rationale

The seventh grade project is a culmination of the seventh grade year. By using the methods of Problem-Based Learning, the project gives students an opportunity to independently identify and explore a problem that concerns them while giving them responsibility for their own learning. In addition, the project will allow the seventh graders to integrate their knowledge from all classes. In this way, we hope to achieve the goals of the Menlo School Mission Statement, which is to “empower students to explore and expand their interests . . . and become ethical, responsible, and engaged members of ever wider communities.”

We want students to:

- discover the joy of learning
- stretch themselves and raise challenging questions
- develop a sense of commitment to purposes larger than themselves
- think independently and creatively
- take progressively more responsibility for themselves and their education

In the seventh grade project, students identify a current problem that concerns them. They will explore the ramifications of the problem and potential solutions on both the local and global level. The project will culminate with an oral, visual, and written presentation of the problem and a proposed solution.

There will be teacher, peer, and self evaluations.