

**Personal Learning Plan (PLP)**

The **Personal Learning Plan (PLP)** is an evolving touchstone document used to develop your learning goals and reflect on your growth as an educator and leader throughout the program. PLP reflections may be shared with your program director, advisor and critical friends and be used to guide reflective conversations throughout the year.

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***PLP Reflection:*** Please use the following prompts to guide your PLP reflection.

1. What are your ***hopes and dreams for your learning*** through this program? How do you hope to grow as an ***educator*** and ***leader***?

I hope that my horizons will be expanded further than I think possible. I don’t have a background in the school education field and I hope to learn anything and everything that I can about it. I hope to learn some HTH ways to incorporate and foster a more positive and successful school culture in our public schools to better serve the needs of our diverse students. As an educator, I hope to continue to transition my skills and knowledge from my recreation career into the school setting as well as connect with other educators and learn from their experiences. As a leader, I hope to continue increasing my awareness of issues and viewpoints. I want to gain leadership skills that are appropriate in other cultures as well and learn to adapt to and grow from these new settings instead of imposing my view and leadership style on others.

2. In regards to ***developing your craft as an educator,***

a. What can you ***celebrate***?

I celebrate my current level of awareness as an educator and that it is a part of every aspect of my life. I look for and do my best to take advantage of every teachable moment that I notice for those around me as well as myself. My awareness helps me to connect with many individuals from different walks of life. In developing this connection, this level of trust and interest fosters my students and staff to be motivated to work with me as their leader and guide. We develop mutual respect and they know I support them at every step along the way.

I also celebrate my consistency and my abilities for organizing and structuring activities and programs.

b. How would you like to ***grow***?

As an educator, I additionally would like to grow in my language and communication capacity. I know some Spanish but I need to learn more and I need to use it everyday. I need to find opportunities and people to speak Spanish with as well as learn other languages. In regards to learning sign language, I am feeling a strong necessity to make it a priority, to make it a mode of communication that everyone uses everyday. This would create an amazing inclusive environment. Using this as an example, this is how I would like to grow as an educator - to be able to push the envelop to a more inclusive future that minimizes or erases the need for specific groups of people to have to advocate for their basic needs. If everyone knew sign language then these people would automatically be included and everyone else would be able to communicate across a crowded room without saying a word.

3. After looking at the [***“Effective Leader”***](https://docs.google.com/a/hightechhigh.org/document/d/1McjU2u9u82_dlfXyzYwxvLI-1cDW4FCHsh0NnJf_mIo/edit) document, reflect on the following aspects of your ***development as a leader*** (from within or outside the classroom):

a. What can you ***celebrate***?

I celebrate my growth and thankfulness for the amazing supervisors and mentors I have had over the years. I have learned many of these aspects that are listed in this document as well as the drive to continue learning and growing from each new person and situation I encounter.

b. How would you like to ***grow***?

This year specifically, I would like to grow in my skills to build community in a school setting which is different from my previous work environments. I strive to develop mutually beneficial relationships with both students and parents as well as staff in the school. This HTH community allows more opportunity for transparency and openness that I have not experienced in my other professional settings and I am excited to share and grow along the way.

4. As you think about your ***Masters Project***…

a. What ***inquiry questions*** are emerging about your practice?

Where to begin? My inclination is to sit back and observe a new environment, assess challenging areas and then create a plan to move forward with. I have a limited knowledge of school systems in general from a teacher perspective that I find myself a bit speechless when asked this question. Part of me doesn’t feel like I know enough about the various issues and topics to pick one to focus on. My most recent (and only school) experience has been with ESOL students and families, so if I have to choose today, I would focus on - What is the experience at HTH like for ESOL students and what resources and/or structures are needed to better support them and meet their needs? This would also include the needs of their teachers.

b. How might any of these evolve into a ***masters project?***

I could do a master’s project focused on ESOL students and their experiences at HTH. This could evolve into a needs based analysis of current students as well as their families and then develop into several options. These potential outcomes could be a training program for teachers supporting ESOL students during PBL or community structures like free English classes for students and parents so they can help their students with homework or incorporating students’ cultures and languages into the HTH school environment everyday such as morning announcements, a content class being taught completely in Spanish, etc.

5. What are your ***professional goals*** and how can we ***support you in realizing them***?

I feel like I should have a very specific list of professional goals at this point in my life, especially coming into this leadership program, but I don’t at the moment. My professional goals are the same as my personal goals in that first and foremost I want to enjoy life and be present where I am at this moment so that I can focus on what is in front of me and use my skills and knowledge to connect with and help (if needed) those around me. I want to always be learning, growing, and evolving as well as sharing, teaching, and guiding. I can see myself being happy at a micro level as well as a macro level. I am comfortable just teaching and growing at the level as well as leading and supervising. At the leadership level, I am comfortable with taking on responsibility and challenges, being held accountable, and pushing my limits along with being scrutinized by others. So at the moment, I am realizing that my professional goals are more centered around learning the technical skills and knowledge of schools and the educational system in this country so that I can use my skill set to further the cause and make education better for all students across the nation. I would like support in learning all that I can about the education system in public schools and HTH. I am imagine this will take the form of reading a lot of books and having a lot of conversations as well as projects that will focus my attention on this area. I want to be held accountable for reaching my goals and may need help in prioritizing what to focus on first.