

# SUMMIT LEARNING INSIDER



As your student completes the first few weeks of school, they are now starting to find their pathway through their grade's curriculum. This installment of the Insider will introduce you to Personalized Learning Time and cultivating a Sense of Purpose.

## Student Experience

### What is Personalized Learning Time?

With your school's implementation of Summit Learning, your student will be given the ability to tackle rigorous content in the individual way they learn best.

We believe this personalized time places students at the center of their learning journey, empowering them to set goals and deeply understand content as a result.

During Personalized Learning Time, students will make their way through content using a variety of resources ranging from textbooks, videos, and study guides, to become college-ready. Students work with their teacher to choose subjects they want to learn and how they access content. Unlike traditional lectures, your student will have a vast array of options to learn the same information. Your student won't be pushed too far ahead of what they are ready for, nor disengaged because they already know it.

## Getting Involved

From the first day of school, students are empowered to own their learning. To guide students, we use the [Self-Directed Learning Cycle](#). Students practice actionable goal setting by making plans, reflecting on progress, and switching strategies if necessary to achieve their goal. We want students to graduate with a Sense of Purpose and a clear path to reach their goals.

**Tips for families:** Ask your student about the short- and long-term goals they have set at school. Log into the Summit Learning Platform to track your student's progress. View this goal-setting as critical for not only their journey to graduation, but their journey into adulthood.

## The Community

Check out our blog's [Showcase School series](#) for a glimpse into how schools around the country are implementing Summit Learning. Summit Learning students spend 70 percent of class time immersed in real-world scenarios. For example, students at Chicago Public School's Lee Elementary are immersed in a real-world projects where they apply math skills to architecture challenges to build their [dream home](#).



## FAQs

**Q: How will my student be graded?**

**A:** Students' grades are based on individual performance on both cognitive skills and mastery of content knowledge.

**Q: Where can I learn more about Summit Learning's grading policies?**

**A:** We have created a plethora of resources that discuss the science, policy, documentation on reading report cards, and more. All of these resources can be found on the [Summit Learning Grading Resources Page](#).

[How it works: A new report explains the research behind a school model](#)

[The 3 Questions Summit CEO & Co-Founder Diane Tavenner Asks Herself Daily](#)

# THE SCIENCE OF SUMMIT

## Part Four: Developing a Sense of Purpose

Developing a Sense of Purpose gives students the ability to see the bigger picture behind their schoolwork, which helps them persist towards their goals. Additionally, they feel more socially connected, supported, and respected when they have a sense of belonging. It is critical for students to have a Sense of Purpose so they can understand their interests, values and skills; all to pave a credible path after high school to achieve a life of well-being.

### The Research

Learning scientists find that students who cultivate a Sense of Purpose are more likely to succeed in meeting their short- and long-term goals. This includes achieving success at college, work, and other life domains ([Damon](#), 2008; [Yeager](#), 2014; [Seligman et al.](#), 2013). These scientific findings showcase the importance of students developing an understanding of their interests, values, and skills. Equally important is the ability to construct a credible, goal-oriented, path that moves students closer to leading fulfilled lives during and after college.

### In the Classroom

In Summit Learning classrooms, students develop their Sense of Purpose through an exploration of their interests, an articulation of their values, relationship building, and goal-setting. Project time, mentorship, and self-directed learning guide students on their path towards purpose. They set short- and long-term goals in the Summit Learning Platform and track progress with mentors. Goal-setting enables students to connect their aspirations, such as college acceptance, with the actions that they must take in the short-term.

If you would like to learn more, you can download the Science of Summit white paper [here](#).

