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**Building a Culture of  
Innovation in Government:**  
*An Example from New York City Public  
Schools*

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# Global Technology Preparatory

## *Statistical Overview*



- 6-8 school serving about 200 students
- About 35% of students have IEPs (special learning needs)
- 10% are English language learners
- 100% free lunch population (universal Title One school)
- 44% of GTP students are black, 55% Latino/a, and 1% other
- 95% of the students live in public housing
- 33% have internet access at home
- The vast majority of GTP students come from single-parent homes
- GTP is a public school for students living in the neighborhood

# Overview of Instruction and Innovation



- All students have a laptop computer (we are on a MAC platform)
- Classrooms are equipped with smartboards and multimedia recording devices
- Leveraging technology and its ability to help teachers meet different types and levels of learners, we systematically transition students out of special education
- We use a multitude of software programs to enhance instruction, making it more engaging and increasing student choice. For example, we utilize PowerSpeak, a software curriculum that offers students five different languages, in combination with a traditional teacher to offer students more options in their learning.
- Display of work is on “digiboards”
- Students create final work products that are sometimes traditional (for example a written essay) and at other times are podcasts, web pages, videos, tutorials, and gaming assessments
- These assessment pieces are kept in digital portfolios. Here’s an example of one of our student’s portfolios (from this link, click “21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills/Common Core”)

<http://www.richerpicture.com/web2011>

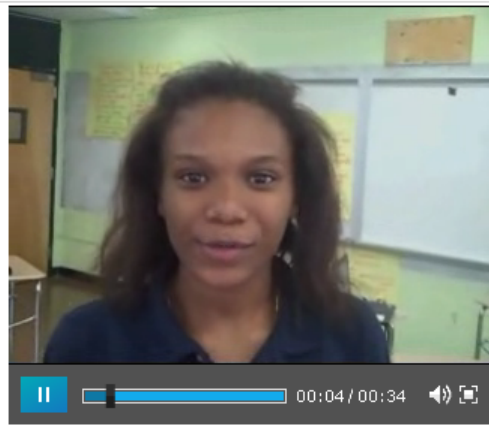
- Cover
- My Best Work
  - My Best Work - Contents
  - Math Tutorials
  - 21st century orienteering
  - Grease Lab
  - All About Me PowerPoint
- Reflection
  - Reflection No Comment
- Evaluation
  - Evaluation

 **Kaira B.**  
Global Tech Preparatory



[My Work](#) / [Cover](#)

## Cover



00:04 / 00:34

Next 

# Sample Student Portfolio Instructions



1. Open a web browser and go to: <http://www.richerpicture.com/gtp>
2. You will now be at the login screen. For the login name, enter webinar. For the password, also enter webinar.
3. You will now be at your home page. Click on CLASSES, and then on VIEW STUDENT LIST. Then, click on Kaira Batiz.
4. You should see, in the student portfolio, the list of her tours. Find her "End of Year Review" and click on "View." The tour will appear in a new window.
5. Let's begin with an overview. She has a video where she talks about her work.
6. Next, note that the work she mentions appears along the left side. These are the pieces she selected from her 6th grade year from each subject area.
7. On the left side, find her Math Tutorial and click on VIEW. After the screen changes, note that this is an ENTRY in the tour. Her entry contains:
  - A brief statement summarizing her work
  - A link to a standard (note that we are in the process of adding the Common Core standards)
  - A reflection on her work
  - The actual work - in this case, a video where she shows how she finds common denominators in order to put fractions in order. (Not all the work is video; the other pieces can be powerpoints, word documents, still images, and so on.)
8. On the bottom of the left side, click on Evaluate. Here is where the work can be evaluated. Note that in this case, we can give a score based on each of the standards demonstrated in this tour. Of course, we can have different rubrics for different purposes.



# Partners for Innovation and Budgeting



- NYC iZone Initiative
  - Kunskapsskolan, Apple, instructional support, hardware, and software
- Citizen Schools
  - Extended learning day until 6:00 pm
- Connected Learning
  - Computers for Youth, Teaching Matters Coach, Mouse Squad
- CA, Inc (through the PENCIL program)
- Cisco
- Small donations from individuals at Lazard and other private companies
- Budgeting strategy: getting donations and grants to cover mandates (for example, the arts, physical education) and using those funds for innovation
- Additionally, since NYC principals manage their own budgets, creativity opens possibilities

# Lessons Learned and Challenges



- Our central triumph/lesson learned: ensuring we teach content using technology as a tool (we do not ever teach technology on its own—content is always the first priority)
- Lesson learned: Teachers need an environment where they can safely take risks because some innovations will work and others will fail
- Lesson learned: Technology does not replace teachers, and the quality of teaching remains the most important indicator (inside the school walls) of student achievement
- Leadership challenge: ensuring teachers are developed and, with the multitude of options available, that innovative practices are carefully chosen and prioritized (time, money, and space must be dedicated to any successful initiative)
- Leadership challenge: managing and navigating government, private, and non-profit partnerships effectively to enhance the school environment while also meeting the multiple demands of the principalship
- A challenge for our school and most innovative environments: reconciling the tension between accountability and innovation