

NapaLearns is celebrating its fifth year supporting innovative teaching and learning in Napa County! We continue to provide funding, thought-partnership, and direct services to ensure that every student in every classroom experiences engaging, tech-infused real world learning preparing them for college, career, and community engagement.

School Transformation Turns a Corner

During the last school year, NapaLearns, with funding from Auction Napa Valley and many generous donors, continued to support the expansion of project-based learning in 13 schools in Napa, Calistoga, and Howell Mountain. With five elementary schools, four middle schools, and four high schools focusing on providing students with stimulating problems to solve across multiple subjects, instead of relying on lectures, textbooks, worksheets, and tests, students are using critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity – the 4Cs needed for this 21st century world. This is the largest transformation of public schools with 8,000 students and 300 teachers learning together to make education relevant, rigorous, and fun! Next year, Napa High School will launch their journey to become a [New Tech Network](#) school, doing project-based learning in most 9th and 10th grade classes.

NapaLearns funding provides the workshops and coaching needed to help teachers design challenging projects that include the Common Core content to



“NapaLearns helps us realize our vision to transform lives by applying 21st Century skills and lifelong learning. They’re not just talking about it; they’re making that happen with us!”

Elena Toscano, Assistant Superintendent NVUSD

be mastered but also topics that are interesting to students. Many students collaborated on projects to improve local creeks, create political newsreels about timely issues, build robots for competitions, and create modern versions of classic plays, like *Romeo and Juliet*.

Power Up With Technology

Last year was a banner year for the [Tech Connection](#), a joint venture between NapaLearns and the Napa Valley Education Foundation, to provide low-cost computers on an installment payment plan to any student in Napa County public schools. The Tech Connection sold 730 Chromebooks to students in grades 6 through 12 who participate in their schools’ Bring Your Own Device initiative. We also sold 95 Kindles to parents of preschoolers with access to Footsteps2Brilliance, an app with 82 books and 200 educational games aimed at mastery of the 1,000 words for kindergarten success. NapaLearns and the Napa County Office of Education co-sponsor a license that enables every preschool-age child in Napa County to access the program. Since 2014 over 1,300 kids have accessed the program, opened 53,000 books, and experienced 15 million words!

Collaborative Purchasing – It’s In the Numbers

This year we launched the NapaLearns Purchasing Consortium to help the small up valley districts access sizeable discounts on technology purchases that the largest district, NVUSD, enjoys.

Through this partnership, districts have purchased over \$1.2 million in technology with a discount of over 40%! We will expand the program next year to include software and online curriculum.

Empowering Teachers to Be the Best They Can

The [NapaLearns Fellows masters program at Touro University](#) expanded to 87 Napa County teachers, impacting over 8,000 students per year. The teachers receive a scholarship for 50% of their



tuition and complete action research, sharing the results with their peers. There is a 97% graduation rate and 42% of the graduates have moved on to promotions and other recognition.

“I was a 20-year veteran teacher ready to wind down and think about retirement,” remarked a Redwood Middle School teacher. “Because of the Fellows program, I am so totally energized about my teaching – I can’t wait to explore new opportunities for learning with my kids!”

Sergio Villegas, NapaLearns Director of Innovation, spends hundreds of hours reinforcing what teachers learn in workshops by coaching them in new and exciting technologies. He frequently goes into classrooms to teach teams of students in grades 3 through 12 in Napa, St. Helena, and Calistoga to become Technology Ambassadors for their teachers. Sergio also teaches preschool and kindergarten parents to use iPads to help their children with lessons and to communicate with their teachers.

We thank [Auction Napa Valley](#), many generous donors, and our amazing board who make all of our programs possible, and we look forward to continuing our work next year!