

## My Working Assumptions

Learning is one of the great joys in life.

Teaching does not cause learning. Grades do not cause learning. The desire to learn causes learning.

Because of their experiences with many teachers, students are experts on what works and what doesn't work in school. Therefore, they should have a say in how their class operates.

When people are forced to do what they don't want to do, unwanted consequences happen.

Within a group, every person has different strengths and weaknesses, so we should share the wealth.

Since students learn in different ways and at different rates, they shouldn't always have to do the same work at the same time, in class or at home.

If we are going to minimize the institutional rules that make school feel like a machine, we are going to have to boost the amount of mutual trust and respect we give each other. Since high school students are actually adults, they should be treated as adults and should act like adults.

Since every person learns in a unique way, students should have a say in *how* they learn. Since students know themselves better than a teacher can ever know them, they should be largely responsible for their own learning. It's also good practice for life.

Who students become in school is more important than what they know. The curriculum is a means to an end.