



Classroom, Inc.

Engaging Students • Supporting Teachers

Chicago City of Learning Badging

Chicago Summer of Learning – Summer 2013

For Chicago Summer of Learning (CSOL), students in Chicago Public School's (CPS) Summer Acceleration Program used our game-based learning simulation *What's Up Magazine (WUM)*, where students take on the role of editor-in-chief of a magazine. CPS Summer Acceleration is for students who are aging out of 8th grade and need to pass the summer program to transition successfully to high school. Students worked to complete the simulation in groups of three and earned badges based on completion of specific episodes. As completion of an episode meant that students collaborated to make decisions and correctly completed their daily activities as the magazine's boss, we believed that students gained the necessary workplace and 21st century skills represented in each episode to earn a badge. We used this summer 2013 experience as a stepping-stone for the 2014 program.




Chicago City of Learning – Summer 2014

Based on the success of CSOL, the City of Chicago decided to expand its summer program to a yearlong badging program part of Chicago City of Learning (CCOL). CCOL continues to partner with the MacArthur Program and Mozilla and has brought on the Digital Youth Network, a digital literacy program at DePaul University, to administer the program.

Once again we provided the WUM simulation to CPS Summer Acceleration students. Based on our experience in CSOL, we learned that it's not necessarily the number of badges that get issued, but rather the meaning behind the badges that make them more motivational. One way we addressed this was by being more detailed and specific with each badge's metadata—data providing a description of each badge, when it's earned, how it's earned, and attaching evidence/criteria. As students earn badges, they are able to show evidence of the particular skills they learned.

Types of Classroom, Inc. Badges Issued in CCOL Summer 2014

Badge Name	Description	Evidence/Criteria
	<p>The Collaboration Badge represents that working as a team, a successful decision was made by collaboratively gathering and reviewing information from co-workers about how to run an advertorial in WUM.</p>	<p>Weighed the opinions of other staff members to make a decision about an advertorial and explained that decision in writing.</p>
	<p>The Problem Solving Badge represents the ability to analyze focus group studies, cost/revenue projections, and selecting the best option in the activity "The Best Way to Boost Profits" by solving the problem on how to increase revenue, saving WUM from financial ruin.</p>	<p>Read and analyzed text, graphs, and charts and wrote a clear, correct reason as to why they made a specific choice.</p>
	<p>Main Ideas & Details Badge exemplifies the ability to successfully organize ideas and details into an outline for activity "Roller Sports Story Outline" in WUM.</p>	<p>Reviewed and read text to successfully organize ideas and details into an outline in order to write a story on that information.</p>
	<p>The Hiring Badge represents the ability to effectively conduct interviews, review resumes, and compare applicant's qualifications in the activity "The New Hire". Demonstrating the ability to compare and contrast facts and details by choosing the best candidate to hire.</p>	<p>Read and analyzed resumes, conducted interviews, and then did a comparison of the information to hire an employee.</p>
	<p>The Editing Badge represents the ability to successfully correct any grammar, spelling, and punctuation mistakes in the mayor's letter in activity "Copyedit Mayor's Letter" in WUM.</p>	<p>Corrected all of the grammar, punctuation, and capitalization mistakes in the mayor's letter.</p>

	<p>The Making Decisions Badge demonstrates the ability to apply reading and evaluation skills to come to a decision for activity "Choose a Summary" in WUM.</p>	<p>Read and analyzed text to choose the correct summary option for two out of three articles and wrote a clear correct reason as to why these choices were made.</p>
	<p>The Logic Models Badge represents the application of algebraic models to logically solve algebraic equations to achieve a score of 65% or higher on the Algebra Assessment.</p>	<p>Achieve a passing score of 65% or higher on the Algebra assessment.</p>
	<p>The Architect Badge represents the application of geometric principles to plan, design, and construct structures to achieve a score of 65% or higher on the Geometry and Measurement Assessment.</p>	<p>Achieve a passing score of 65% or higher on the Geometry and Measurement Assessment.</p>

About Classroom, Inc.

Classroom, Inc. is a nonprofit educational organization whose mission is to close the academic achievement gap by using technology and the world of work to engage, teach, inspire, and empower middle and high school students. For more than 20 years, we've created digital learning games that make authentic connections between school, college, and career using a blended learning model. Our learning games are successfully used in school, extended day, afterschool, and summer school environments. At Classroom, Inc. we believe that educators need effective tools, deeply engaging content, and continuous support to give all students the opportunity to succeed in school, work, and life. For more information, visit www.classroominc.org.