



26 January 2016

The Cosmicus Education Concept

Pillars:

1. **Citizenship education**
2. Core subjects (language, math, science)
3. Talent development
4. Cooperative learning
5. Parent involvement

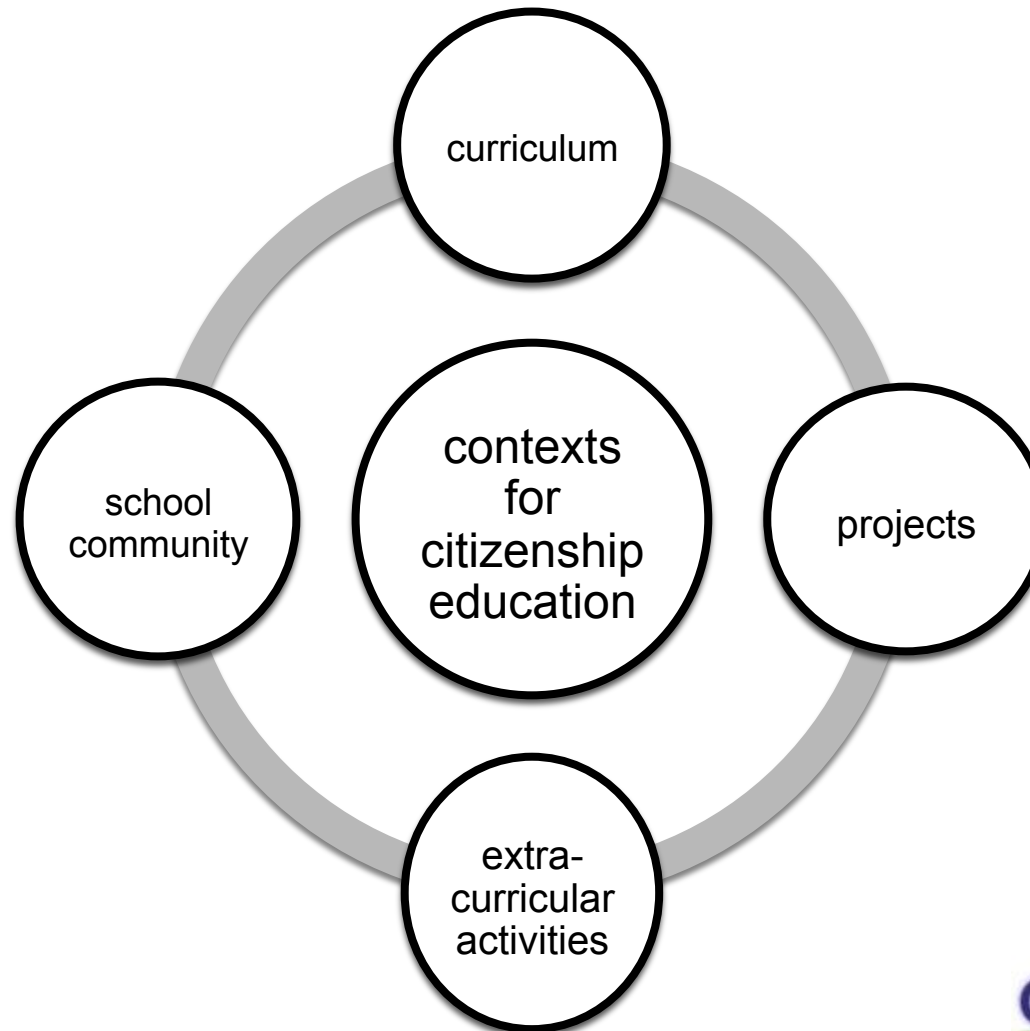
Citizenship Education

Goal: to prepare students for the plural society and global world.

Transformative Citizenship Education (James Banks)

- recognize and validate the cultural identities of students;
- enable students to acquire the knowledge, skills and values to challenge inequality within their communities, their nations, and the world;
- develop cosmopolitan values and perspectives;
- take action to create just and democratic multicultural communities and societies.

Contexts for citizenship education



The Curriculum as a context for Citizenship Education

Citizenship Education as a separate course

- primary schools: one hour a week
- secondary schools: one hour a week

Citizenship Education in other courses

English starts at grade 3 primary school (age 6)

Example of a Citizenship Education class

- Start with watching the morning news
- Short discussion on hot topics
 - Making connection to core values
- Theme of the day: refugees
 - Activating prior knowledge (what do you think...)
 - Think of arguments for and against allowing refugees.
 - Roleplay
- Reflection: how did it feel to be a refugee



Projects as a context for Citizenship Education

Projects

- Transcend the individual school subjects
- Sometimes school wide

Teamwork

Examples of projects:

- I love Holland
- Confess colour
- Charity fairs → War child, Greenpeace, etc.

Project I Love Holland



Project Confess Colour



Extracurricular activities as a context for Citizenship Education

Extracurricular activities: school initiated, after school time, voluntarily

Educational, cultural, sports and technical activities:

- Photography, painting, singing, robotic, world dance, media, theater, judo, reading, football, hockey, etc.

Excursions to for example different countries, the parliament, Kamp Westerbork, summer school.

Exchange projects, partnerships

Visit to monument deported children World War II



Dialogue between students from different schools



The **School Community** as a context for Citizenship Education

- Positive pedagogical approach
- The school culture is informal but respectful, low threshold but structured
- Clear behaviour rules: respect everyone's lifestyle, no tolerance for bullying, aggression, violence or intimidation
- Student Council, Parent Council, PTA
- Guest lessons
- Partnerships with local institutions like museums, libraries and universities
- Open days

Guest lesson monotheistic religions

Rabbi



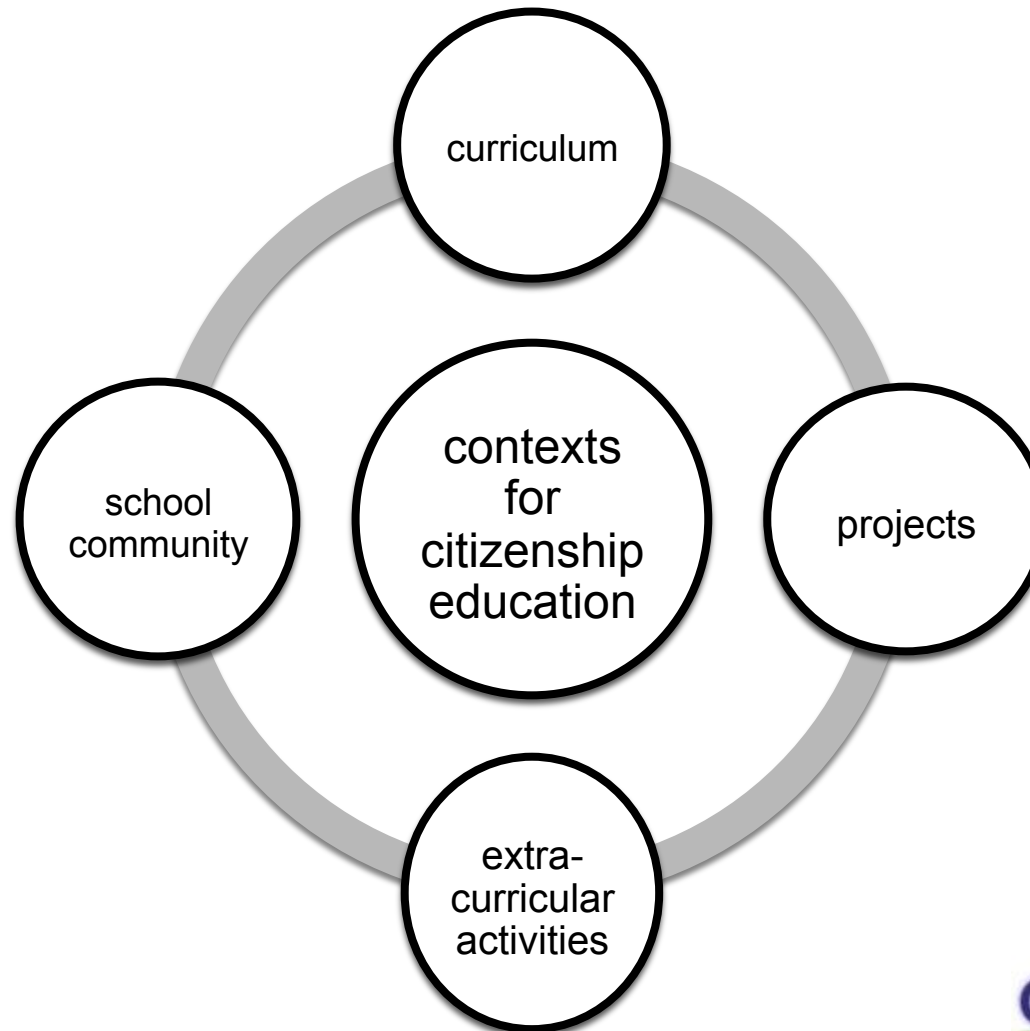
Pastor



Imam



Contexts for citizenship education



Case: Paris

- In the weekend a lot of communication between teachers and principals
- Monday morning at 08.00h briefing
- First class: talk with students about what happened
- A minute of silence at 12.00h
- Flag half down
- Visit to the French embassy



High expectations

Some statements of teachers during class:

- *“You are the new generation, so the future is in your hands”*
- *“We expect you to be kind, righteous and honest to each other”*
- *“When I hear from another teacher you disturbed his lesson, I ask to myself, what did I do wrong?”*
- *“Always ask yourself first: What can I do?”*

Conclusion

- It is not enough to pay attention to citizenship issues only when things go wrong
- For real change structural attention is needed to issues like freedom, democracy, equality and justice
- Make use of all contexts for citizenship education
- Get into dialogue with students, exchange views
- Make students part of the solution or they will become part of the problem
- Challenge students to transform knowledge into action
- Give the right example by living