April 10, 2012

Dear Catlin,

Outstanding work! Your portfolio was the first electronic portfolio I have experienced. Being old and all I was initially overwhelmed but actually found it quite easy to navigate. The rubrics, student work samples, and reflections were well organized and easy to find.

I remember your last years Integrated Service Learning Unit. The students were so excited about their work but I had no idea of the extensive planning that went into this unit. Using critical thinking skills to create everything from 3-D models to creative writing pieces was truly education at its best. I thought using Phoenix Rising was a great idea in encouraging students to think about themselves in relationship to their outside world. They “ hear” about energy issues all of the time but until this interdisciplinary unit they probably never really gave it much thought. In four or five years your students will be quite different energy issue voters.

The second unit was also interesting. Of course, I first had to Google “what is a Beane Model?” Do our students know this or did you have to teach them this idea?

I really enjoyed watching the student’s montages. You are obviously quite comfortable with various types of media and your portfolio demonstrates this. I imagine you are looking forward to Warsaw becoming an Expeditionary School, as it seems that you and Lindsey are already doing this kind of work.

Brava Caitlin! It’s so exciting seeing just a little glimpse of the great work that is happening at our school. I’ve always been proud of my colleagues but after seeing your portfolio am even more so. I’m keeping your link to show Marilyn over vacation!

Marisa Weinstein