

THE NORTH STAR

TILTON'S INNOVATION JOURNEY

TILTON SCHOOL

IMPERATIVE

We believe that the current model of education is broken and does not provide a powerful educational experience for teenagers to navigate the world they will inherit. We put on our pack because we are frustrated with the lack of **CHANGE AND INNOVATION** in all schools (public and private). The problem we are solving is the fact that the current educational system prepares students to work in a **FACTORY ECONOMY**, and that is **NO LONGER RELEVANT**.

IDEA

Tilton will help each student discover their own unique aptitudes, skills, interests and learning style and develop a personalized roadmap of intentional opportunities across all facets of school life to develop the skills they need to become their best self and thrive at Tilton and beyond. This highly personalized experience (the **TILTON EXPERIENCE** or **TEX**)—supported by exceptional curricula, faculty development, a culture of innovation, a commitment to social responsibility, and physical spaces that foster community and learning—will ensure that no matter how the world changes, Tilton graduates will have the essential skills and the motivation to make a difference in our communities and the world.

The **DAY HIKES** along the way include a reimagining of our school schedule, assessment redesign, evaluation of the skills that matter (i.e. creativity, communications, critical thinking, mindfulness and design thinking), off-campus learning experiences, intensive faculty professional development, redesign of campus spaces, and presenting our graduates to colleges and universities in a way that allows their true abilities to shine through beyond GPA's, test scores and recommendations.

Tilton School challenges students to embrace and navigate a world marked by diversity and change. Our **TEX** is aligned perfectly with this mission by reimagining what it means to educate teenagers in the rapidly evolving world they will inherit.

This idea was born out of a brainstorming session based on input from our alumni, faculty, parents and students. The fundamental question was **HOW DOES TILTON NEED TO CHANGE TO BETTER SERVE OUR STUDENTS BY BUILDING ON THE HISTORICAL STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL WHICH INCLUDE RELATIONSHIPS, SMALL SIZE, AND A PERSONALIZED PROGRAM.** At first it was a marketing project and then it blossomed into something bigger. We believe that we can change the fundamental approach to educating teenagers and plan to share our experiences with every school across the world.

IMPLEMENTATION

We are in year two of this journey and have collaborated with our entire faculty, staff and students as well as trustees and parents in a design thinking experience. With a **NORTH STAR** document to clarify and guide our vision, our nine design teams along with a 2016 summer intensive team produced initial prototypes and directions that we have implemented this year. These include a **BETA SCHOOL SCHEDULE** we are implementing for six weeks, a **REDESIGN OF OUR 10TH GRADE PROGRAM**, a **PILOT FACULTY EVALUATION PROGRAM**, and changes to our **RESIDENTIAL EXPERIENCE**.

Next year, our ninth and tenth grades will be implementing significant programmatic changes, a technology platform will be designed and operational on a pilot basis for faculty and students that brings together goals and metrics (Folio Collaborative), new professional development programs will be implemented to reinforce and bolster the skills of our faculty and a commencement of a redesigned transcript (Mastery Transcript Consortium) process will be underway. It is our vision to have all elements of our emerging design be fully deployed by 2020. Running concurrently with this vision is a capital campaign that will be announced in the next 12-18 months with both physical plant and endowment as its cornerstones.

We have embedded the capacity of **DESIGN THINKING** in our faculty and students. Nearly every problem we attack at school has benefited from our work so far. We have also implemented system wide strengths assessment for all adults and a team of students (Gallup). The most difficult part of the process has been trying to manage the pace of change.

HOW MUCH CHANGE IS TOO MUCH AND HOW MUCH IS TOO LITTLE?
HOW DO YOU UNIFY THOSE WHO BELIEVE WE ARE MOVING TOO FAST, AND THOSE THAT ARE IMPATIENT?
HOW DO YOU CREATE SPACE AND TIME WHILE WE ALL STILL DO ALL THE "OTHER" WORK?
HOW MUCH RISK DO YOU TAKE ON BUDGETS (IE DEFICIT POSITION) TO EFFECT MEANINGFUL AND SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE?

RESOURCES

THE TILTON EXPERIENCE
tiltonschool.org/page/about/the-tilton-experience



#TSExperience
LEADING THE WAY

What is The Tilton Experience?
A uniquely powerful education journey for every Tilton Student that identifies their aptitudes, skills, interests, and learning styles and provides direct guidance and intentional opportunities to help them realize their power of potential.

The Tilton Experience.

Tilton Experience Kickoff

Design Thinking: Prototyping Workshop