



Welcome!

MS Coffee - March 6, 2025



Our Values

Menlo School is a values-driven institution that holds its members to high ideals. Our values guide everything we do, shaping both who we are as a community and who our students are becoming.

Together, We Value...

A Joyful Learning Environment That Is Engaging, Challenging, and Supportive

Together, we inspire transformative learning experiences that spark wonder and love of learning. We stretch and empower our students to explore broadly, question deeply, think critically, and grow in competence, confidence, and curiosity.

A Culture of Kindness, Trust, and Belonging

Together, we nurture a culture where all feel welcomed, included, and valued. We collaborate and communicate respectfully and productively and honor diverse backgrounds, identities, and ideas by engaging with curiosity, care, and compassion.

A Commitment to Ethical Behavior and Purposes Larger Than Ourselves

Together, we embody integrity, empathy, and courage. We act with humility and grace and contribute to the betterment of our school, our community, and the world.

A Caring Community Centered around Connection, Growth, and Well-Being

Together, we cultivate a community where students thrive through meaningful relationships with their teachers, coaches, and peers and an aligned school-family partnership. We collectively strengthen their minds, bodies, and hearts and entrust them to take progressively more responsibility for themselves and their education.

This is what Knights do!

We strive to live these values in all areas of the School, and they are manifested through our [Middle School Habits](#), our [Upper School Honor Code](#), and our [School-Family Partnership](#).

Menlo Middle School

Habits of Heart and Mind

SELF-AWARENESS

Recognizing emotions, tendencies, actions, and reactions within myself.

ETHICAL BEHAVIOR

Acting with integrity and moral values.

KINDNESS

Showing thoughtful and compassionate behavior towards others, regardless of the relationship and without expecting anything in return.

EMPATHY

Understanding and honoring another's emotions and point of view.

CURIOSITY

Exploring and questioning the world beyond myself.

RESILIENCE

Recovering and growing from challenges.



Menlo School

Middle School Athletics



Benay Weintraub

Director of Middle School Athletics &
Associate Director of Upper School Athletics

Middle School Athletics

- Family Partnership
- Competitive Spirit
- Teamwork
- Friendship



- Resilience
- Leadership
- Learning
- Sportsmanship



0 4 2
SCORE MATCH SCORE

30



Athletics Updates

- **Sport sign up process**
 - Accountability
 - Commitment
 - Proud to represent Menlo!
- **Planner Party**
 - When teams are created
- **Proper attire**
 - No uggs and crocs
- **Nurse Notes**
 - Medical issues/concerns must go through the Nurse's Office not coaches
- **Sports Performance**
 - Educate, prepare, discipline, resilience
 - Movement literacy
 - Strength & power development
- **Summer sport camps**
 - Menlo website



Celebrating National Girls and Women in Sports Day

GO KNIGHTS!





Sean Hyland

Creative Arts

CREATIVE ARTS - Spring Events

- 3/21 - 3/22: **Dance Concert - *Icons***
- 3/27: **Ballroom Ballads**
- 4/22 - 4/25: **Creative Arts Week**
(Celebrate Menlo 4/25)
- 5/16 - 5/17: ***The Giver***
- 5/22: **Spring Concert - *Movie Knight***



CREATIVE ARTS - Electives Sign-ups

- Sign-ups will be in early May, and will run through Veracross.
- Students will be selecting 5 electives out of 11. These selections are unranked.
- We will be placing students in classes for both the fall and spring semesters.
- Working to have the option to select Dance as a year long class.



CONTACT

Sean Hyland

shyland@menloschool.org

Ext. 2494



Bobbi Lynn Monroe

Science



Science News and Updates

- One Day, Deep-Dive Meeting
 - Alignment, Spiraled Skill-Building, Assessments, Scientific Literacy
- Climate Change and Human Impacts Focus
 - Year-Long; Woven-Unit
- Science Placements in 9th Grade
 - Tied to Math and Habits of Learning
- Building Community through Science
 - Classrooms & Assembly

A Day in the Life!



Science and CS&DE Assembly





Maura Smith

English

SOMETHING NEW IN ENGLISH!



- ✓ The 100-word story contest
 - All three grades
 - Each English block nominates two finalists
 - English teachers select three stories from the finalists of each grade to read their piece at the English assembly on May 15



“FOR THE MAJORITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE,
ENTHUSIASTIC AND HABITUAL READING IS
THE SINGLE MOST PREDICTIVE PERSONAL
HABIT FOR THE ABILITY TO ACHIEVE
DESIRABLE LIFE OUTCOMES.”

—Bayless, C. in “Growing a Reading Culture”
as cited in *The Joy and Power of Reading:
A Summary of Research and Expert Opinion*



1530

The number of books read by our sixth graders
since the start of the school year!

TEACHING WRITING IN THE AGE OF AI

- ✓ Adding honor statements to essay self-reflections
- ✓ Doing more writing during class and more on-demand essays
- ✓ Offering more authentic and more personal writing that centers student voice and perspective
- ✓ Focusing our work on making better writers, not necessarily better papers
- ✓ Letting students build their confidence and wrestle with challenge

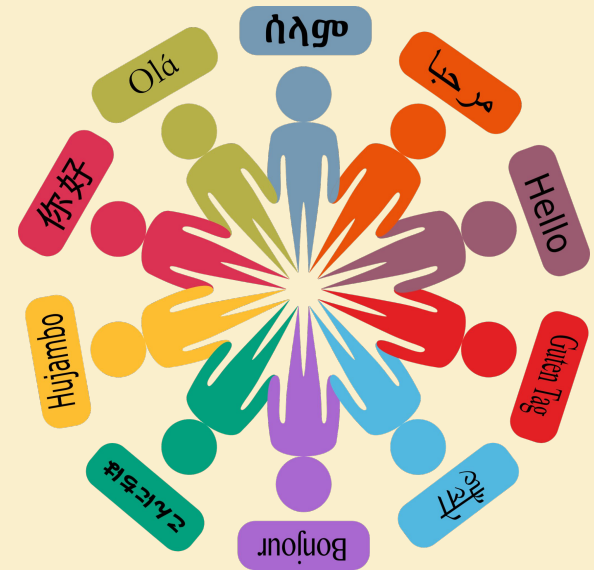




Weixin Shi

World Language

- Field Trips/Hands-on Learning
- Cross-Language Collaboration
- Testing & Placements



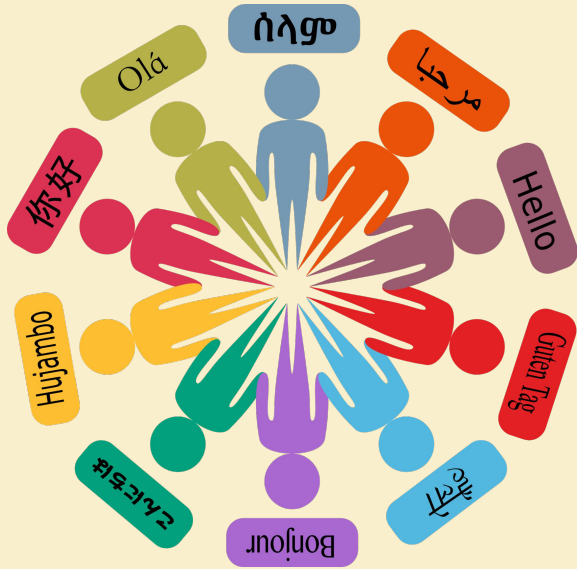


Field Trips



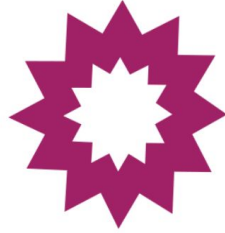
Hands-On Learning





Collaboration Across Disciplines and Languages

Language Testing & Placement (8th Grade)



ALIRA

ACTFL LATIN INTERPRETIVE
READING ASSESSMENT



AAPPL

ACTFL ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE
TOWARD PROFICIENCY IN LANGUAGES



Shanel Daines

Social Sciences

Social Sciences Keystone Project



Middle School
Social Sciences

IMPACT

Community Action Project

Initiative for Mobilizing People and Advocating Change Together



RESEARCH PROJECT:

- change in our local, national and global communities
- Previously known as TED talk, MOVE, Pecha Kucha



REASON FOR SHIFT:

- 6th-8th alignment of skills
- Expansion of student mindset
- Clearer connections to program goals



WHEN ARE THEY?

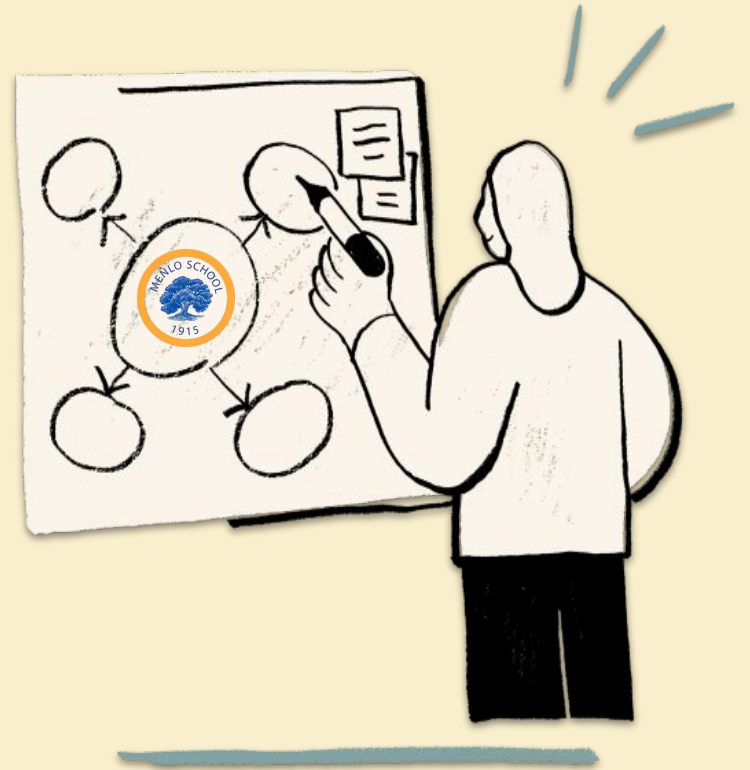
- 7th grade - currently
- 6th & 8th - May



MS Academic Reminder

Trimester 3

- Year long grades
- ‘Mastery’ of skills over time with multiple opportunities to practice
- Transition from teacher support to student independence
 - 6th & 7th: student-driven retakes/revisions
 - 8th: no retakes/revisions
- **GOAL:** prepare students for the next grade up





Kevin Champion

Math

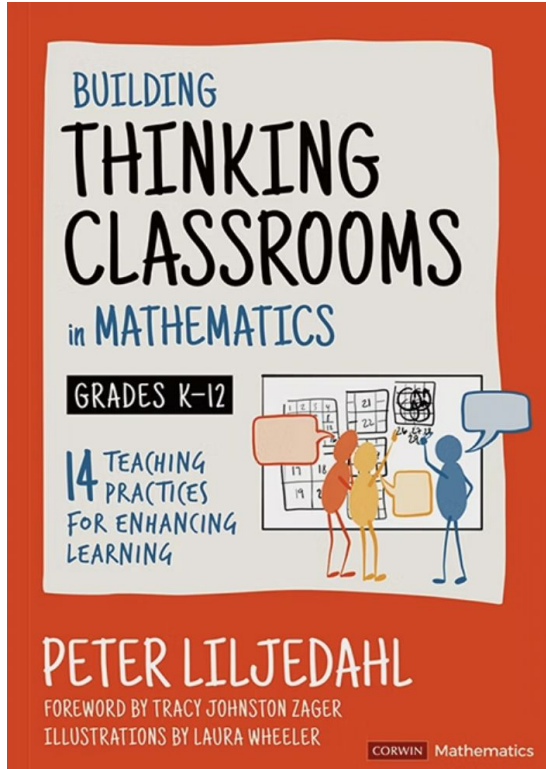
Menlo MS Math

Kevin Champion



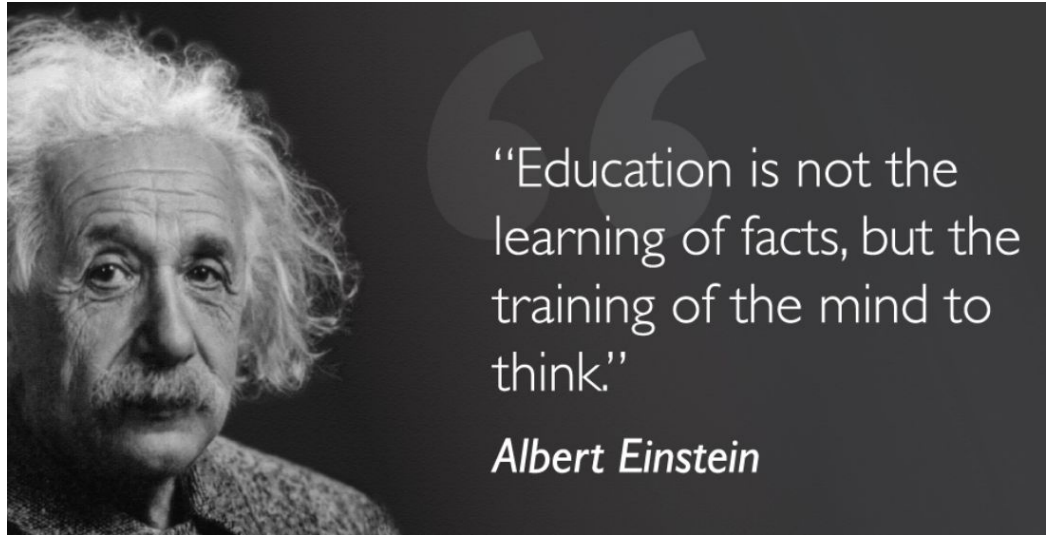
What's coming up?

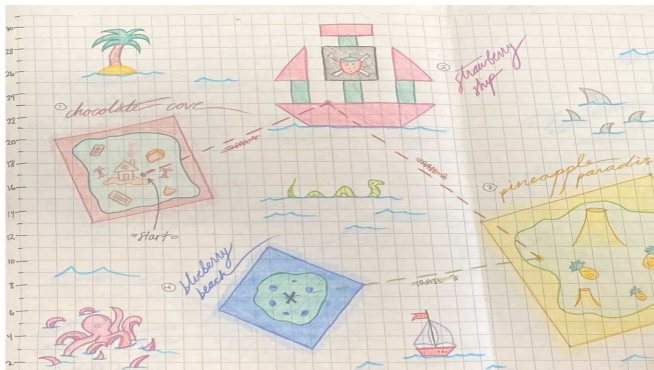
- Spring!
- Building Thinking Classrooms
- Projects
- Math placements



“Building Thinking Classrooms”

- Engagement
- Collaboration





- ⊗ $x=0\{-4<y<7.8\}$
- ⊗ $y\leq-\frac{1}{2}x+2\{-2<x<0\}\{3>y>-\frac{1}{2}\}$
- ⊗ $y\leq\frac{1}{2}x+2\{0<x<2\}\{3>y>\frac{1}{2}x\}$
- ⊗ $y\leq-\frac{1}{2}x+0\{-2<x<0\}\{y\geq-\frac{1}{2}x-\}$
- ⊗ $y\leq\frac{1}{2}x+0\{0<x<2\}\{y\geq\frac{1}{2}x-2\}$
- ⊗ $y\leq-\frac{1}{2}x-2\{-2<x<0\}\{y\geq-\frac{1}{2}x-\}$
- ⊗ $y\leq\frac{1}{2}x-2\{0<x<2\}\{y\geq\frac{1}{2}x-4\}$
- ⊗ $y=-\frac{1}{2}x-4\{-2<x<0\}$
- ⊗ $\frac{1}{2}x-4\{0<x<2\}$

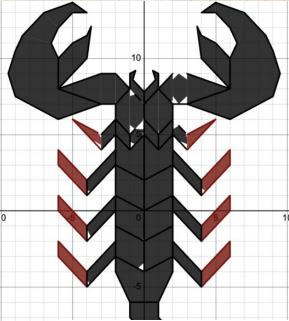


Figure 1



Figure 2

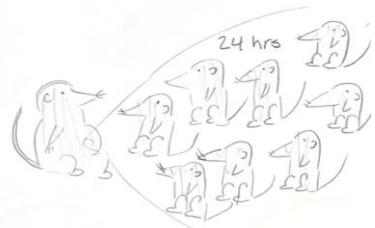
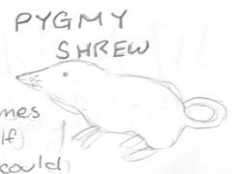


Figure 3

IF I COULD EAT LIKE A PYGMY SHREW

$$\frac{\text{weight}}{\text{Food}} = \frac{\frac{1}{10}\text{oz}}{8/10\text{oz}} = \frac{90\text{lbs weight}}{1440\text{lbs}}$$
 Pygmy shrew eat in 24hrs meat in 24hrs

A pygmy shrew can eat 8 times its body weight in 24 hrs. If I had that super power, I could eat 1.3 cows in 24 hours!



Projects





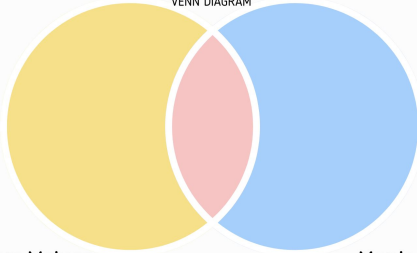
Michael Giardi

8th Grade Advocacy

8th Grade Advocacy

CORE VALUES

VENN DIAGRAM



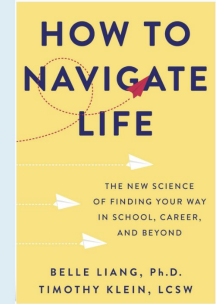
Your Core Values

Menlo Values



Purpose Mindset

The more time we spend thinking about our lives the more likely we are to find purpose in them.



Choose 2 sentence starters below that suit you to stand up for your values

- Excuse me
- Ouch!
- I'm sorry, did I hear you correctly?
- What you just said makes me uncomfortable.
- I don't agree with that you just said.
- What you just said hurt my feelings.
- Could you explain to me what you meant by that because I disagree with what I heard?

What school values do these pictures illustrate?

Together, We Value...

A Joyful Learning Environment That Is Engaging, Challenging, and Supportive

Together, we create transformative learning experiences that spark wonder and love of learning. We stretch and empower our students through healthy, question-driven, risk-taking, and growth-oriented, confidence, and curiosity.

A Culture of Kindness, Trust, and Belonging

Together, we create a culture where all feel welcomed, included, and valued. We celebrate and encourage individual responsibility and productivity and honor diverse backgrounds, abilities, and ideas by engaging with students, staff, and employees.

This is what Knights do!

We strive to live these values in all areas of the school, and they are reinforced through our Middle School Values, our Upper School Honor Code, and our School Family Partnership.

A Commitment to Ethical Behavior and Purposes Larger Than Ourselves

Together, we establish empathy and courage. We work bravely and grow and contribute to the betterment of our school, our community, and the world.

A Caring Community Centered around Connection, Growth, and Well-Being

Together, we cultivate a community where students thrive through meaningful relationships with their teachers, coaches, and peers and are guided to their personal growth. We collectively strengthen future leaders, builders, and innovators and empower them to take progressively more responsibility for themselves and their education.





Cody Carefoot

7th Grade Advocacy

Character Development-7th Grade Advocacy

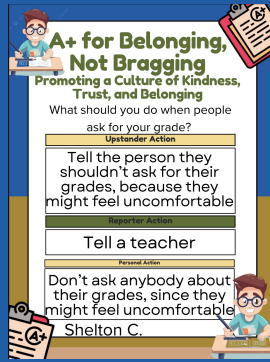
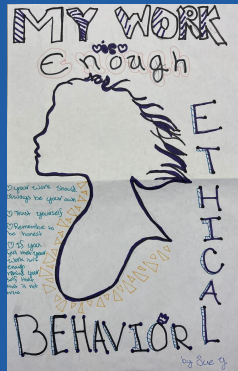




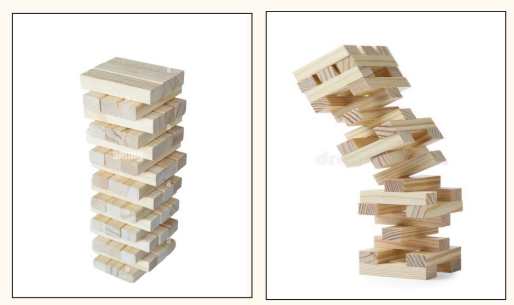
Jacqueline Stark

6th Grade Advocacy

6th Grade Advocacy: Shoring Up Our Foundations



Habit Foundations



Menlo Middle School

Habits of Heart and Mind

SELF-AWARENESS
Recognizing emotions, tendencies, actions, and reactions within myself.

ETHICAL BEHAVIOR
Acting with integrity and moral values.

KINDNESS
Showing thoughtful and compassionate behavior towards others, regardless of the relationship and without expecting anything in return.

EMPATHY
Understanding and honoring another's emotions and point of view.

CURIOSITY
Exploring and questioning the world beyond myself.

RESILIENCE
Recovering and growing from challenges.

Menlo Middle School

Habits of Learning

LEARNING ATTITUDE

- Motivate myself with care or growth
- Accept and seek challenges
- Exhibit independence
- Demonstrate resilience
- Practice self-advocacy
- Complete assignments on time

ORGANIZATION

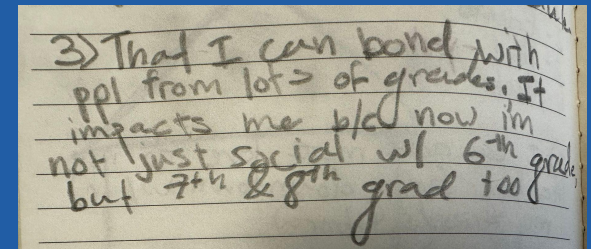
- Bring materials to class
- Follow directions accurately
- Manage time efficiently
- Organize documents
- Complete assignments on time

COLLABORATION

- Collaborate productively towards the group work.
- Build on others' ideas
- Step-up and step-down appropriately
- Offer and receive feedback from peers

ENGAGEMENT

- Listen actively
- Stay-focused and on task
- Participates regularly
- Ask questions and make connections
- Contributes positively to classroom culture



Values Posters

6-7-8 Knights Roundtables

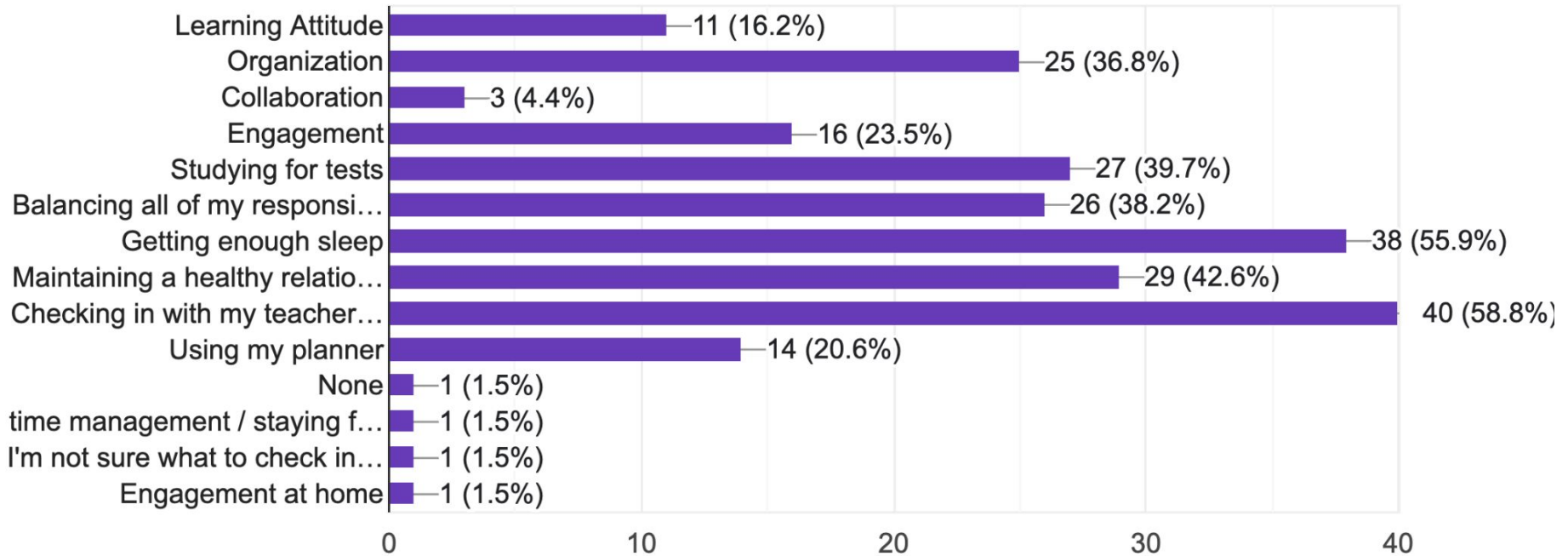


Frankie Machado

Learning Specialist

What academic areas do you need to improve? (mark all that apply)

68 responses






Self-Advocacy and Report Cards

Ways to encourage:

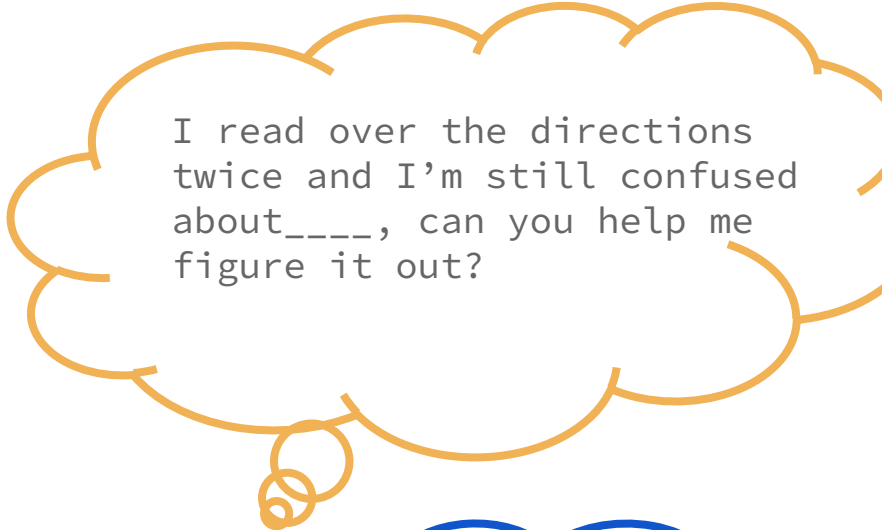
- **Zoom out:** acknowledge the awkwardness/discomfort
- **Reappraise:** It's worth the effort
- **Reassure:** the awkward feeling will pass, and you will see the benefits over time

Report Card Tips:

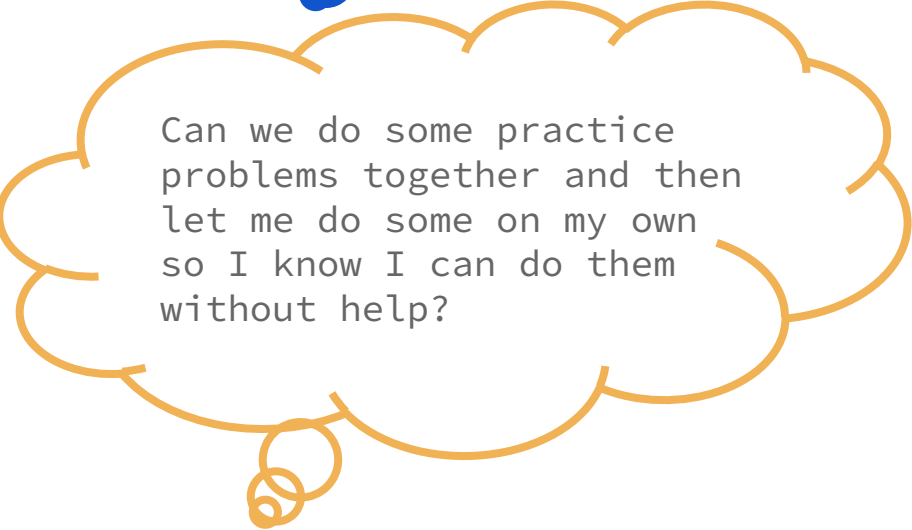
- Start by celebrating growth and areas of strength
- Find 1-2 major themes to focus on third trimester
- Encourage your child to talk with their teachers about that specific skill



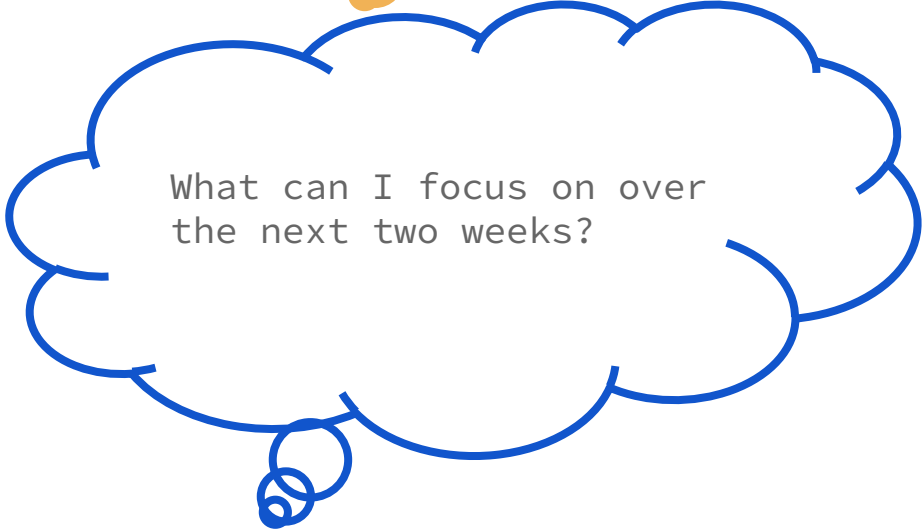
I read in my report card that I need to improve _____, are there any upcoming opportunities where I can practice this?



I read over the directions twice and I'm still confused about_____, can you help me figure it out?



Can we do some practice problems together and then let me do some on my own so I know I can do them without help?



What can I focus on over the next two weeks?

Learning Differences Middle School Assembly

Presentation by Upper School DLS Club
Thursday, March 6th.





Reach Out

fmachado@menloschool.org

650.330.2001 ext 2446

Mima Takemoto – Student Life



- Clubs
- Assemblies
- Upcoming Special Events/Activities
- Lunch - Flik Survey
- Discipline
- Mental Health & Wellness Strategic Plan



Kaila Uniacke

Counselor, Human Skills



Middle School

Breakfast BUNCH



Sign up here!



8a-8:30a every Friday with
Ms. Uniacke

Wellness Week!

3/17-3/21

Wellness Week is an opportunity for our students to focus on prioritizing their well-being by embracing healthy habits. As a community, we aim to empower individuals to utilize tools and resources that encourage self-care, mindfulness, healthy decision-making, peer support, and, of course, fun! Our goal is for students to integrate these well-being strategies into various aspects of their lives.

MENTAL WELLNESS SKILLS

B I N G O

Light a candle	Get a good night sleep	Read a book	Listen to Music	Jumping Jacks
Hold ice	Create a to do list	Deep Breathing	Play with a pet	Bake a treat
Play a sport	Go for a run	FREE	Go for a walk	Use a fidget toy
Boxed Breathing	Color or Draw	Play an Instrument	Mindfulness	Ask for Help
Eat a healthy meal	Eat a mint or sour candy	Clean up your space	Tense & Release Muscles	Drink Water

8th Grade Values:

Kindness

Empathy

Honesty

Joy

Education

Self-Love

PERSEVERANCE

Safety



Reach Out

kuniacke@menloschool.org

650-330-2001 ext 2461



Thank You!