



Glendale School District

October 2019

INTRO

In fall 2019, leaders from Glendale School District gathered feedback from students, staff, and families in order to better capture the priorities, values, and beliefs of the community. Stakeholders included 153 students, 31 staff, and 22 family and community members. Feedback was collected through in-person listening sessions as well as an online survey. Inflexion staff analyzed the feedback to identify trends and synthesize commonalities across the stakeholder groups.

Stakeholders were asked to

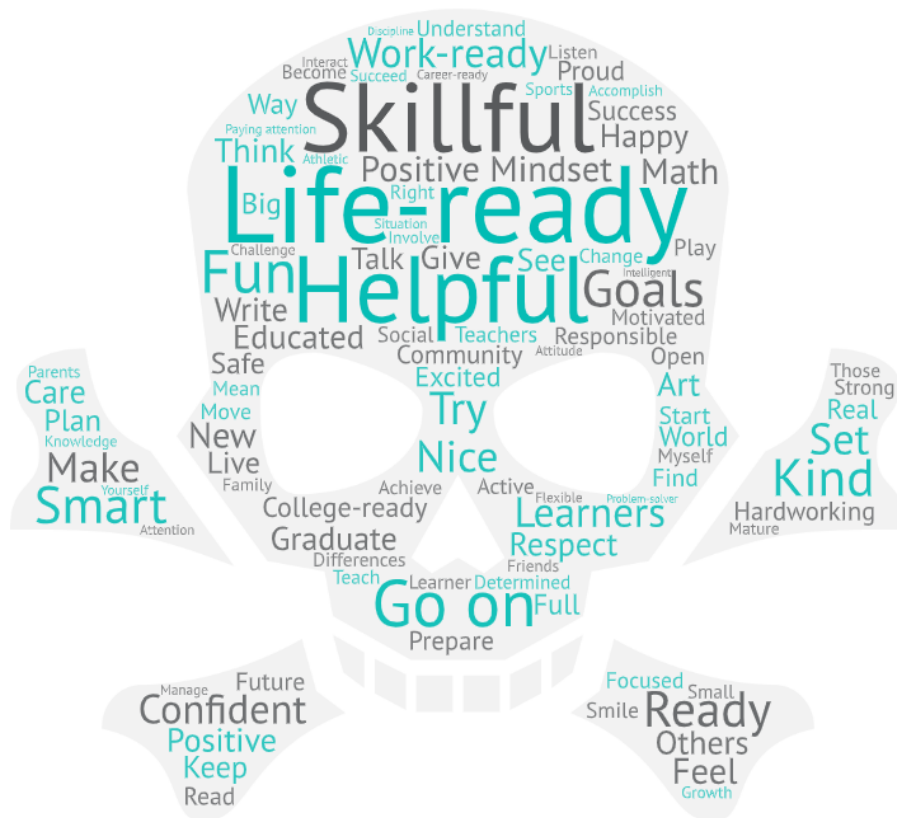
- describe an ideal school;
- describe the characteristics, skills, mindsets, and behaviors students need in order to prepare for their futures; and
- identify the unique personality of the school community and the traits most valued in the community by creatively imagining their school as an animal and describing how it represents the school.

These questions help us discover what is most important to the community when it comes to student readiness. This report highlights the ideas and themes that emerged.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SHARED

Students, staff, and community members want a school that is **fun**, **safe**, **respectful**, and a **strong community**.

They described a student that is ready for life after graduation as someone with the following characteristics, behaviors, and mindsets.



“A student that is ready to successfully accomplish their goals in life has a positive mindset who, not only is proud of themselves but proud of their peers and classmates.”

“They set their own goals and dreams and work to achieve them. A graduating student would be someone who is ready to face the rough of the real world.”

“That student is willing to learn and make mistakes and keep going on with his or her life. They are ready for the challenges ahead and will take them on with full force. They are always looking on the bright side of situations. They are ready to use their full potential and move on to bigger and better things.”

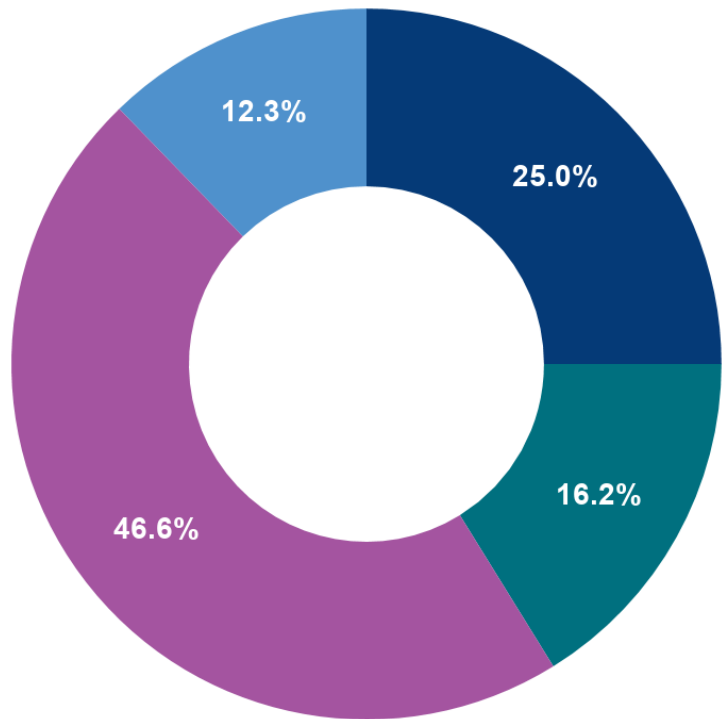
Stakeholders were asked to identify the characteristic of a life-ready student that has been most helpful in their own life, and then choose the category from the Four Keys to College and Career Readiness that best aligns to that characteristic.

What are the Four Keys to College and Career Readiness?

The [Four Keys](#) is a research-based framework that describes a holistic approach to student readiness. In its simplest form, we refer to the Four Keys as **Think**, **Know**, **Act**, and **Go**. In other words, students ready to be lifelong learners have the ability to THINK deeply about what they are doing; KNOW contextually why they learn; ACT purposefully to achieve their goals; and GO successfully through life’s transitions.

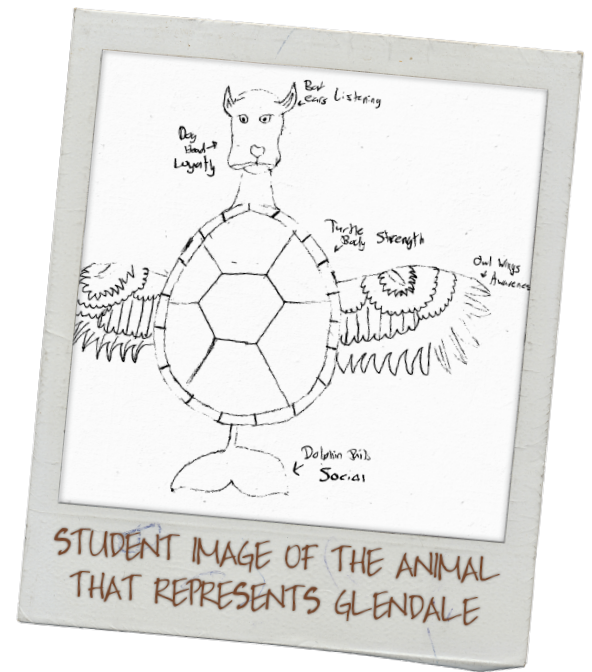
The pie chart shows the categories the “most helpful” skills fell into.

- THINK: critical thinking and problem solving
- KNOW: content knowledge
- ACT: ownership of learning and self management
- GO: navigating life transitions

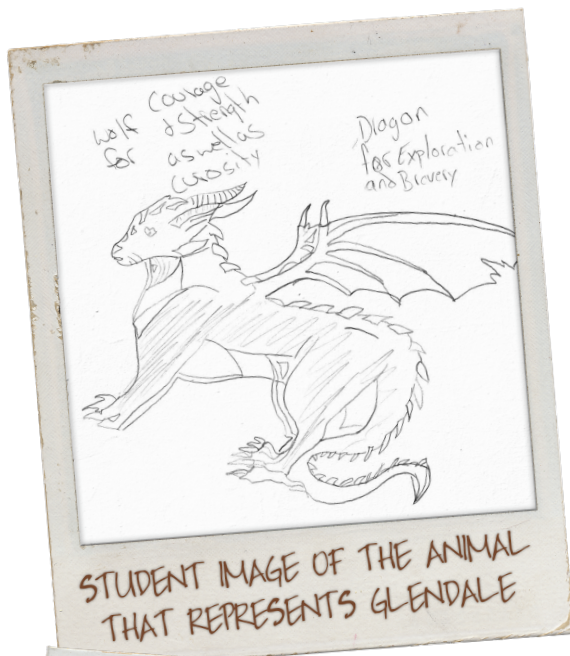


What is Glendale's Personality?

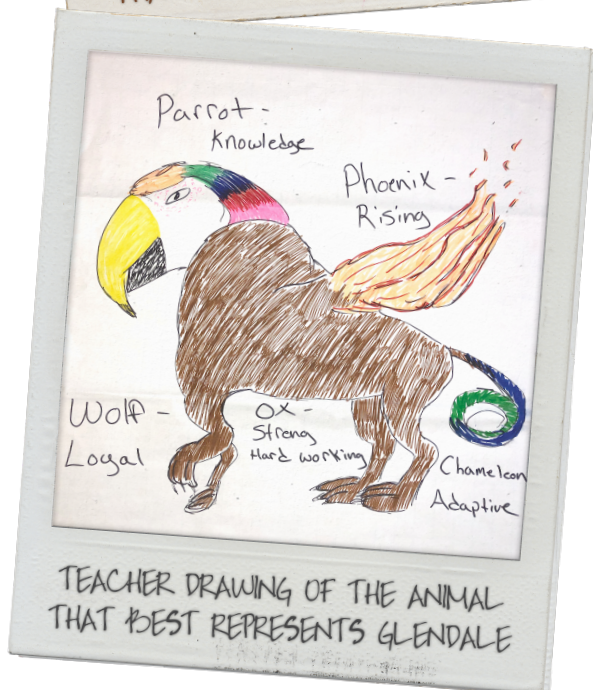
Stakeholders identified the animals that best embody the characteristics and personality of the school. Across the many animals described, a few personality traits rose to the top as best embodying the school community. These include being **loyal, strong, social, curious, caring, welcoming, respectful, wise, loud, loving, understanding** and **brave**.



"A wolf for powerful, a dolphin for smartness, a cat for curiosity, and a dragon for pride."



"A dogs loving and caring attitude, a lemur's body for energy and jumping from one task to another, a lioness for her strength and protectiveness, fox for curiosity and ability to hear what is going on, octopus tentacles for multi-tasking."



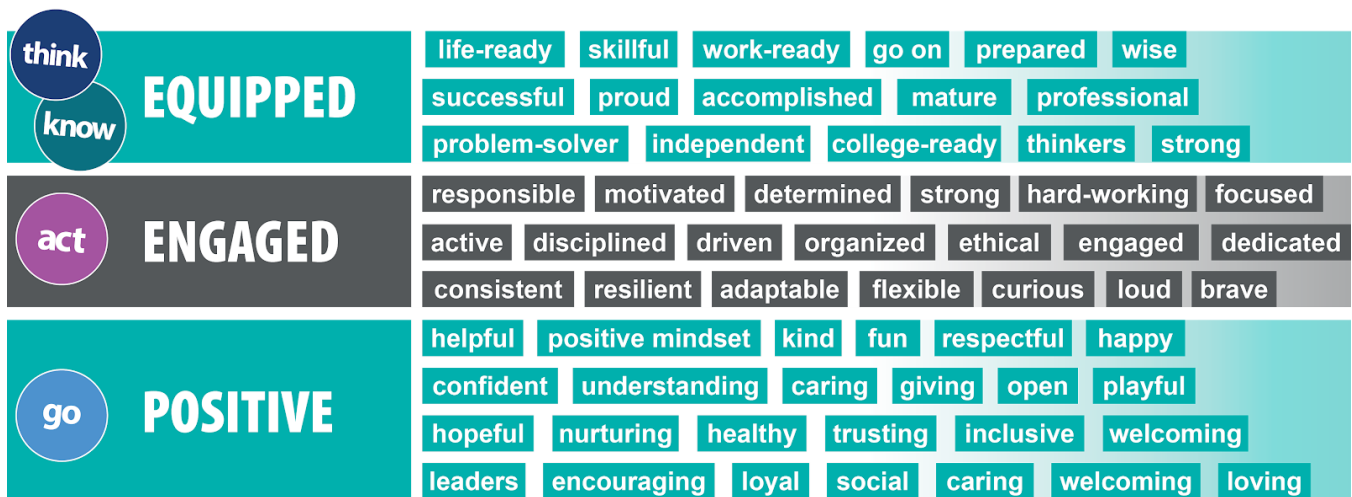
"Dolphin horse and dove. Horse for strength and work ethic and an understanding of self-preservation and a balance of the job to be done. A dolphin symbolizing the freedom of choice with knowledge and cunning and creative problem solving and finally a dove both for the traditional symbolism of freedom and peace as well as youngsters leaving the nest."

When asked what additional characteristics they would add, stakeholders said they would want to highlight being **kind** and **communicating well**.

"Always be kind to one and other and you will probably be friends."

WHAT OUR COMMUNITY CARES ABOUT

Based on the feedback collected, several themes emerged showing what the Glendale community values most. The graphic below highlights the findings.



WHERE WE GO NEXT

The engagement sessions and survey are part of the process to discover what the students, faculty, and community value most. The next step is to develop Life Ready Maxims. Life Ready Maxims are statements that act as a school's core drivers to equip and empower every student to pursue their passion, interests, and aspirations. They are used to highlight the areas of hidden strength already within a school. They can also be used as aspirational statements to reinforce the promises your school makes to the community.



Inflexion is a nonprofit consulting group that helps educators better prepare students for life. We give districts and schools a new way to look at themselves—with all their complexity and culture—to find ways to create a learning community with the best systems and supports to ensure all students graduate ready for college, career, and life.

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