



**THE ENVIRONMENT  
IS  
THE THIRD TEACHER**

The SEED School of Miami

Jennifer Joy Pike-Vassell

Prof. of Visual Arts & Culture



**TENACIOUS.  
INTENTIONAL.  
PERSISTENT.**

**CELEBRATING TEN YEARS  
OF SEED MIAMI.**

## WHO IS TEACHING THE COURSE??

- BA: DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY, PITTSBURGH, PA  
MAJOR IN ENGLISH LITERATURE  
DOUBLE MINORS IN PSYCHOLOGY & PHILOSOPHY
- TEACHING CERTIFICATE: BROOKLYN COLLEGE, BROOKLYN, NY
- MA: COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK, NY  
MAJOR IN CURRICULUM & TEACHING

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER  
**BECOMING**



**I AM FOREVER ON  
THE WAY**

MAXINE GREENE

PICTUREQUOTES.COM



**PART OF TEACHING IS  
HELPING PEOPLE  
CREATE THEMSELVES**

MAXINE GREENE

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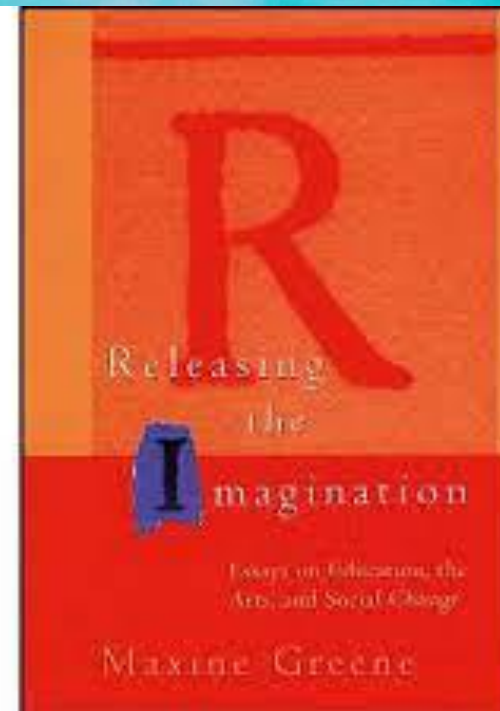
Maxine Greene relentlessly explored ways that literature and the arts could open us to what might seem “to be a totally alien world in the person of another; we are called upon to use our imaginations to enter into that world, to discover how it looks and feels from the vantage point of the person whose world it is. That does not mean that we approve it or even necessarily appreciate it. It does mean that we extend our experience sufficiently to grasp it as a . . . possibility.”

*(Releasing the Imagination: Essays on Education, the Arts, and Social Change, p. 4.)*

"I'm absolutely opposed to strict standards, and I'm terribly interested in kids having confidence in their own vision. There is no right way to make art."

"I use the term '*wide-awakeness*'. Without the ability to think about yourself, to reflect on your life, there's really no awareness, no consciousness. Consciousness doesn't come automatically; it comes through being alive, awake, curious, and often furious."

"I'm very influenced by existentialism and the thought that you can be submerged in the crowd, and if you're submerged in the crowd and have no opportunity to think for yourself, to look through your own eyes, life is dull and flat and boring. The only way to really awaken to life, awaken to the possibilities, is to be self-aware."





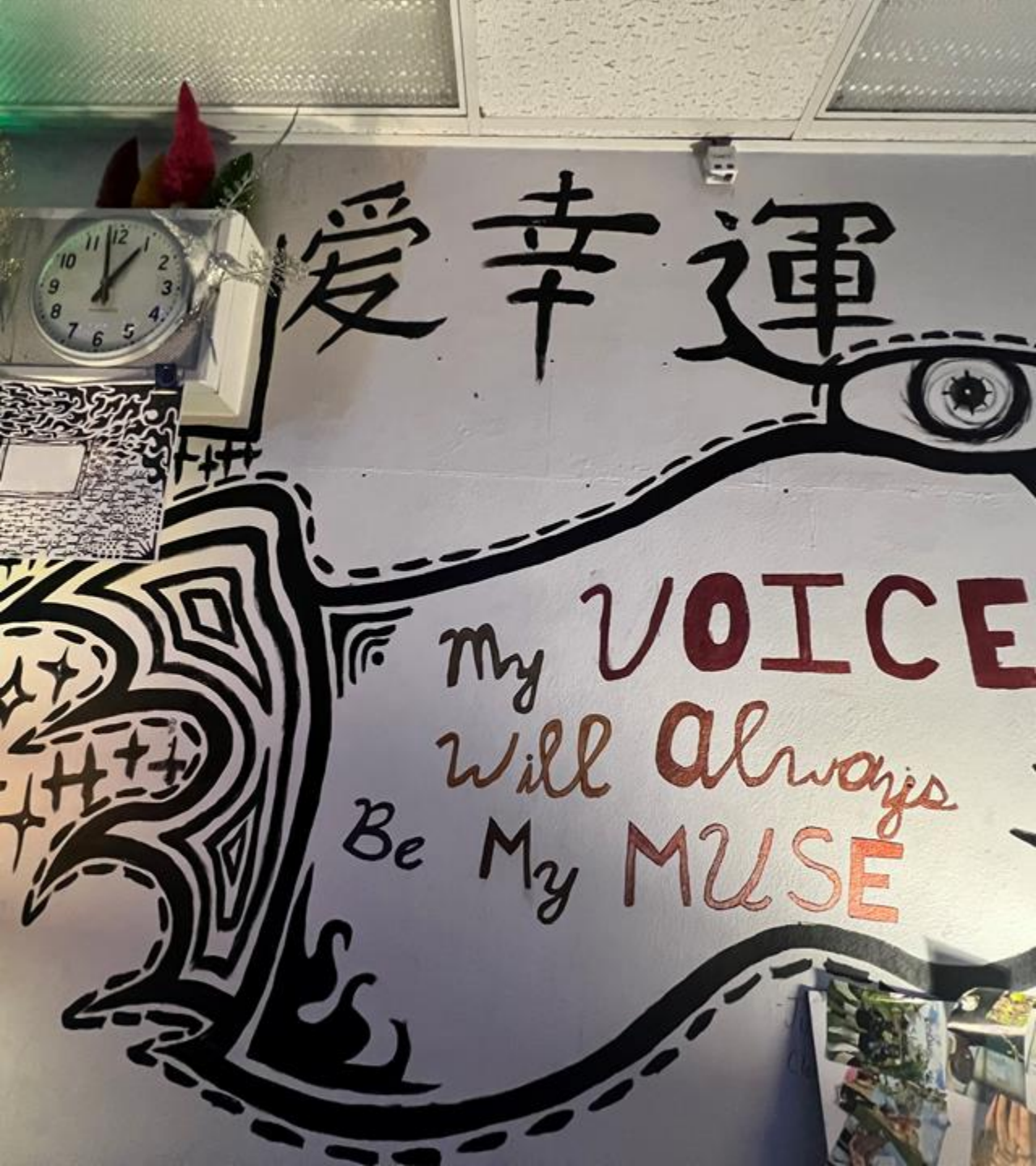
## **GROUP SHARE OUT**

**What are some positive aspects of your classroom (and school) community & culture?**

**What are some of the challenges?**

**What role does the physical environment play in your teaching and learning space?**





*Do you feel empowered and/or have the support as an educator in your learning community to have a voice?*

**”Engaging teachers in the conversation about what great teaching looks like can be *transformative.*”**

—◆—  
Julia Armstrong, Coordinator,  
Kellett School

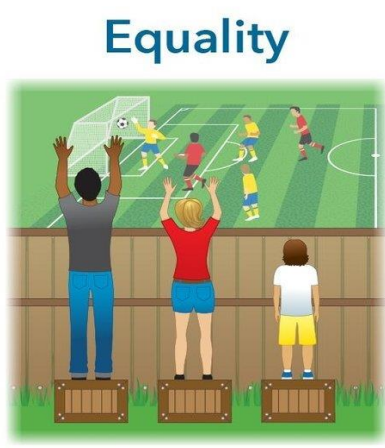
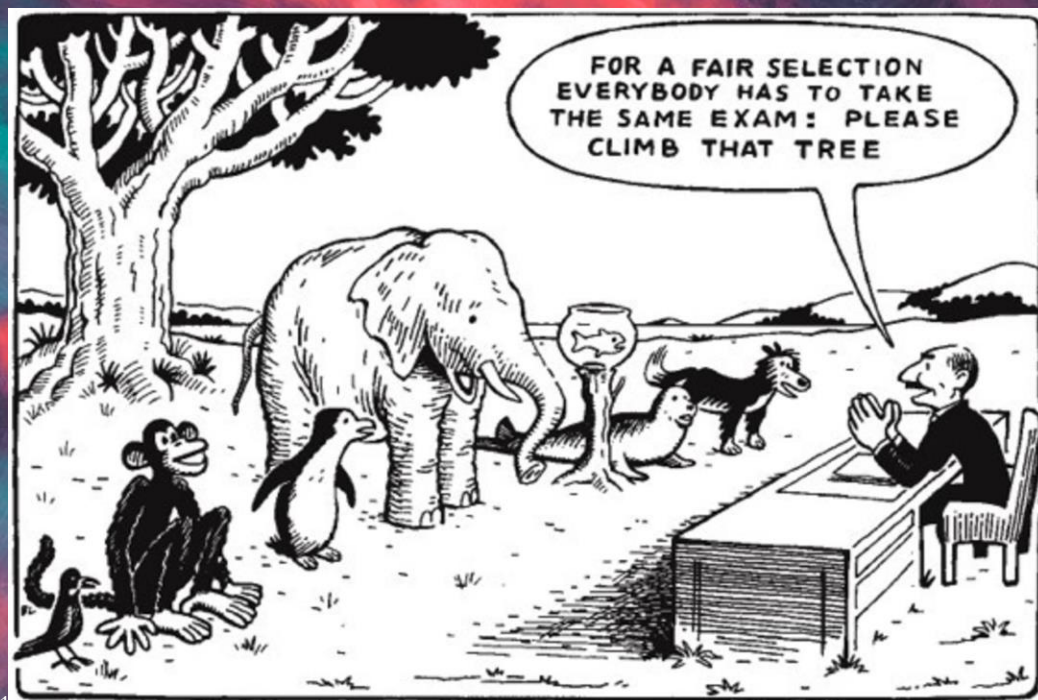
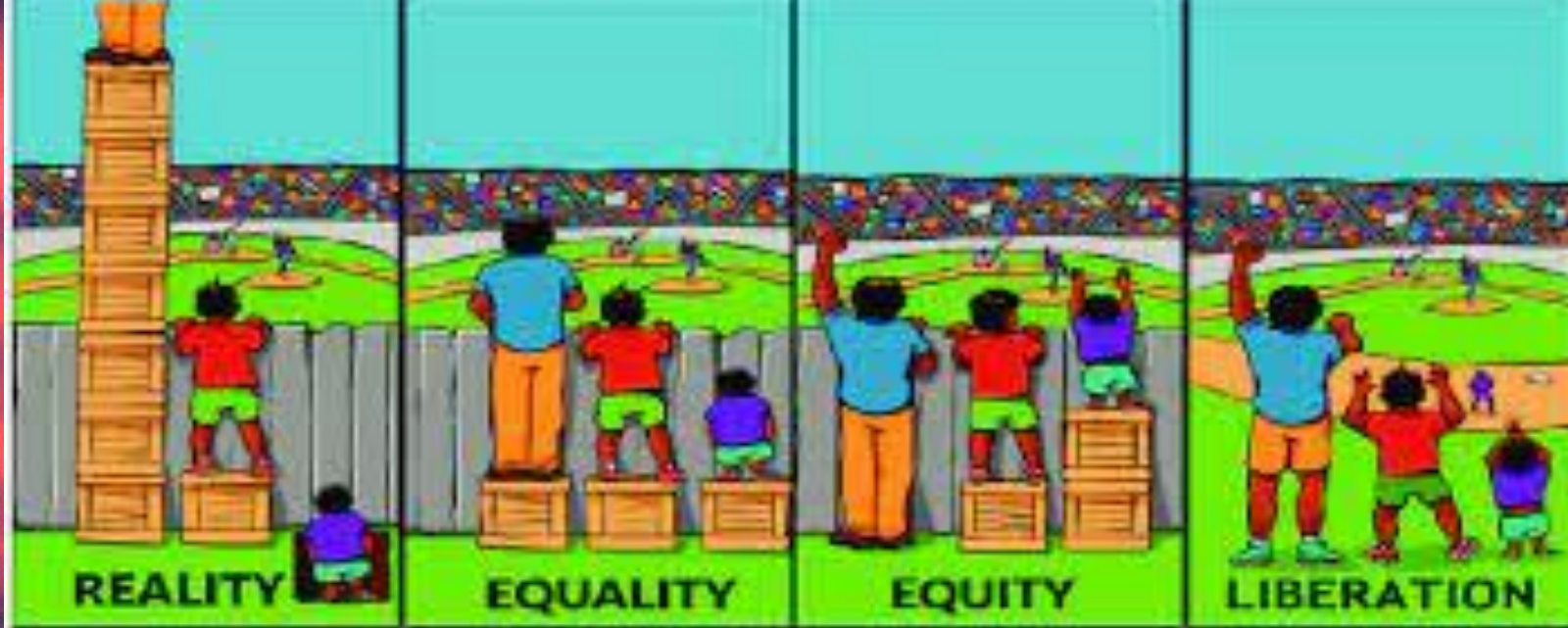


WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE, IF ANY, BETWEEN MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP?

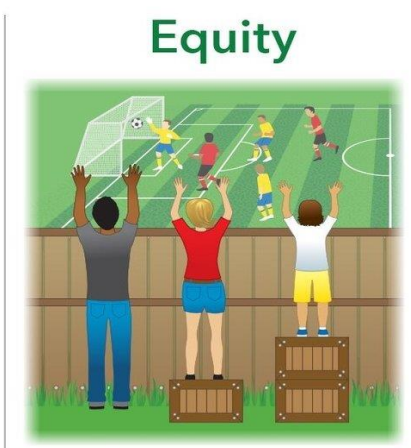
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE STATEMENT "LEADERSHIP IS A RELATIONSHIP"?

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF SERVANT LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION?

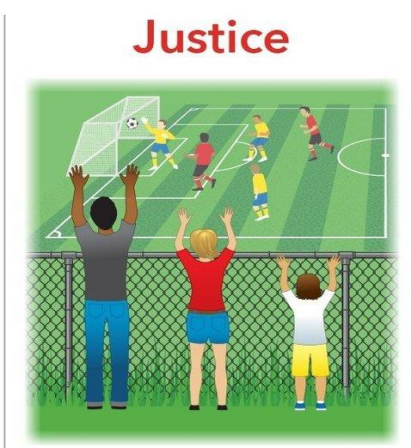




The assumption is that everyone benefits from the same supports. This is equal treatment.



Everyone gets the supports they need (this is the concept of "affirmative action"), thus producing equity.



All 3 can see the game without supports or accommodations because the cause(s) of the inequity was addressed. The systemic barrier has been removed.

# Brené Brown



Brené Brown, PhD, LMSW is a research professor at the University of Houston's Graduate College of Social Work who has spent the past 10 years studying vulnerability, courage, authenticity, and shame. She is a nationally renowned speaker and has won numerous teaching awards, including the college's Outstanding Faculty Award. Her groundbreaking work has been featured on PBS, NPR, and CNN. Her 2010 TEDxHouston talk on the power of vulnerability is one of most watched talks on TED.com. Her most recent TED talk, "Listening to Shame," was released in March 2012.

#1 NEW YORK TIMES AND WALL STREET JOURNAL BESTSELLER

**Brené Brown**  
PhD, LMSW

*dare*  
**to**  
*lead*

BRAVE WORK.  
TOUGH CONVERSATIONS.  
WHOLE HEARTS.

DARING GREATLY AND RISING STRONG AT WORK

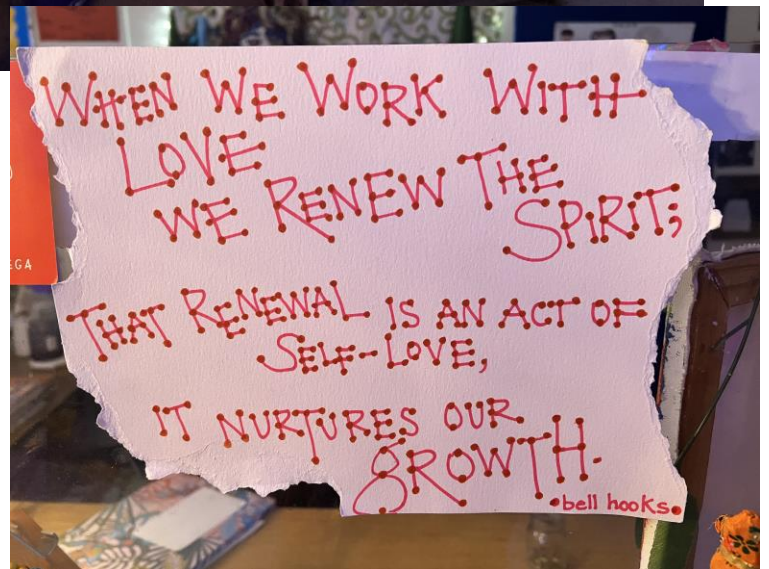
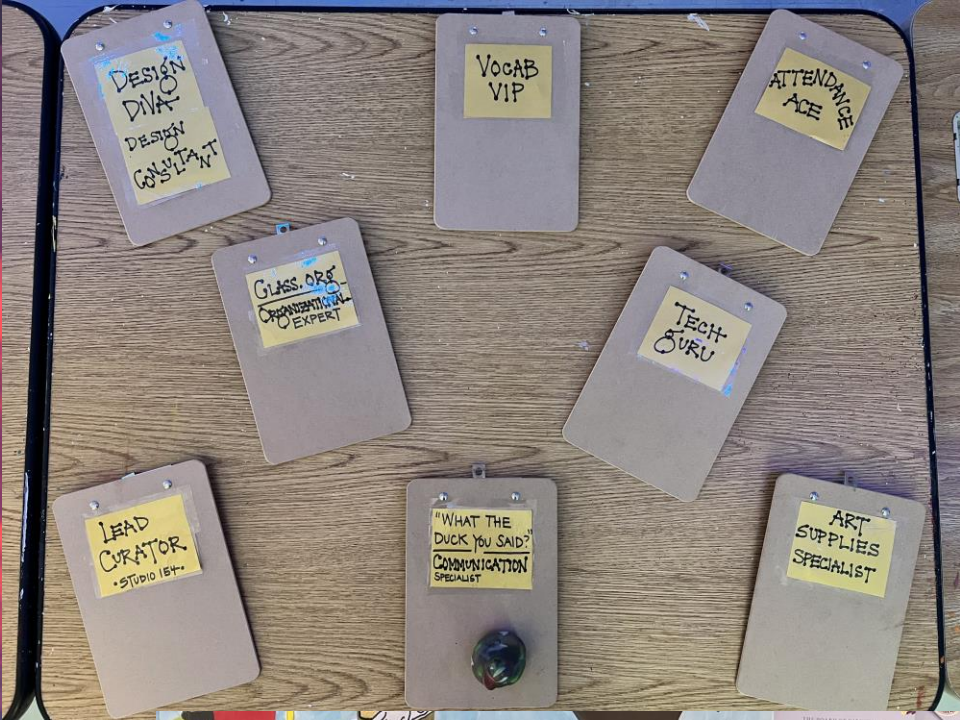
*Daring  
leaders who  
live into  
their values  
are never  
silent about  
hard things.*



**“...BUT DARING LEADERSHIP IN A CULTURE DEFINED BY SCARCITY, FEAR, AND UNCERTAINTY REQUIRES SKILL-BUILDING AROUND TRAITS THAT ARE DEEPLY AND UNIQUELY HUMAN. THE IRONY IS THAT WE’RE CHOOSING NOT TO INVEST IN DEVELOPING THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF LEADERS AT THE SAME TIME AS WE’RE SCRAMBLING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER THAT MACHINES AND AI CAN’T DO BETTER AND FASTER. WHAT CAN WE DO BETTER? EMPATHY, CONNECTION, AND COURAGE, TO START....”**

**-FROM THE BOOK JACKET OF DARE TO LEAD: BRAVE WORK,  
TOUGH CONVERSATIONS.  
WHOLE HEARTS.**

**Brene Brown**





**IN MANY WAYS,  
EFFECTIVE  
COMMUNICATION  
BEGINS WITH MUTUAL  
RESPECT,  
COMMUNICATION THAT  
INSPIRES,  
ENCOURAGES OTHERS  
TO DO THEIR BEST.**

**• ZIG ZIGLAR**

# Am I truly listening?



PLEASE TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE  
ENERGY YOU BRING INTO THIS SPACE.

*-Dr. Jill Bolte Taylor*



**THERE'S NOT  
ONLY  
ONE  
RIGHT  
WAY**





Don't Forget



To Breathe

JustDrawinItOut



I do not go to the forest  
to Be alone, She SAid,  
I go to be with the ones  
who speak without  
hUMAN Words.



**#1 CAUSE OF DEATH FOR CHILDREN  
IN THE UNITED STATES IS**

**GUNS**

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL & PREVENTION

 **MSNBC**

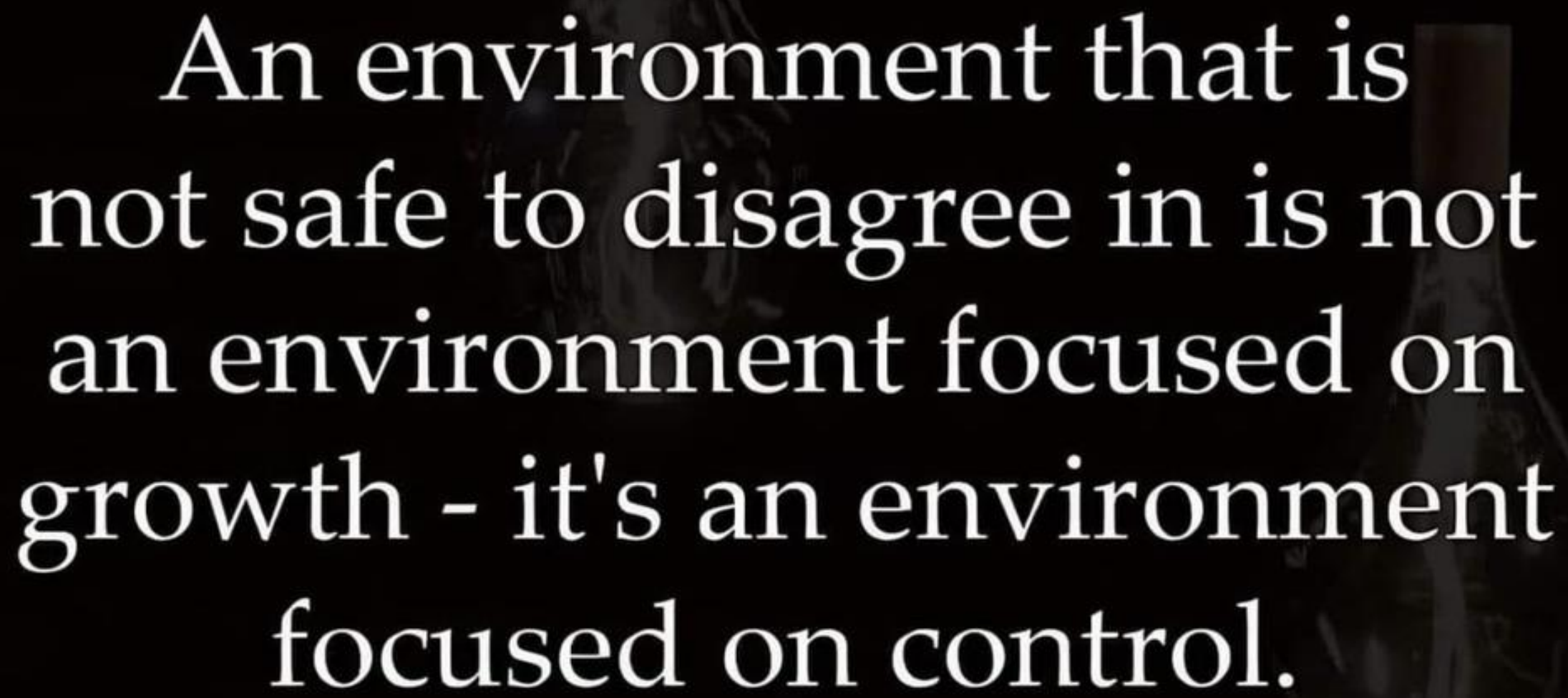


“I never have been in despair about the world. Enraged. I’ve been enraged by the world, but never despair. I cannot afford despair...you can’t tell the children that there is no hope. ”

—James Baldwin

**BLACK LITURGIES**





An environment that is not safe to disagree in is not an environment focused on growth - it's an environment focused on control.



# Speak truth to power

—Quaker Activist Bayard Rustin

## Reflective Questions for Educators, Students, & All Community Members

Is this classroom a space where I  
can be myself?

Does my voice genuinely matter in  
this space? How do I know?

How can I advocate for myself in  
others in situations where I do not  
feel fully safe to respectfully express  
my thoughts and ideas?



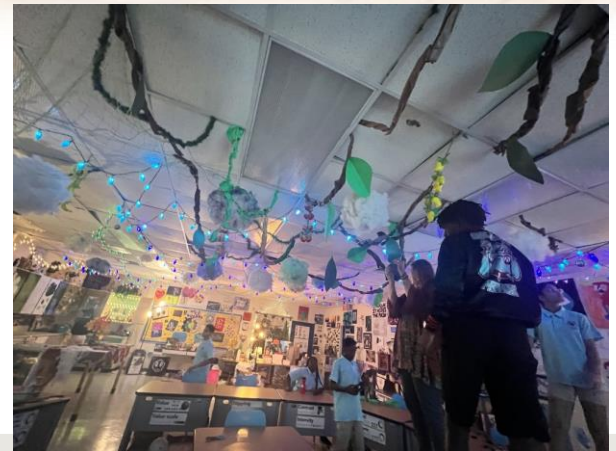
# PEACE STARTS WITHIN ME.



If you slice me open  
to my center  
you won't discover  
rings of regret  
or circles of sorrow

I hope  
instead  
you will see growth  
in grace and wonder  
moving like waves  
from my core

Jen Brady



INHALE

I grow weary,

EXHALE

But not numb.

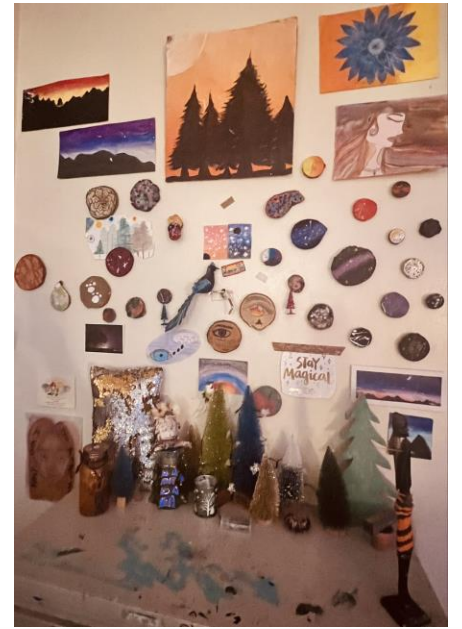


INHALE

The whole earth groans.

EXHALE

Art is resistance.



BLACK LITURGIES



INHALE

I steady my breath.

EXHALE

I make beauty of chaos.

BLACK LITURGIES

BLACK LITURGIES



INHALE

I don't have to move on.

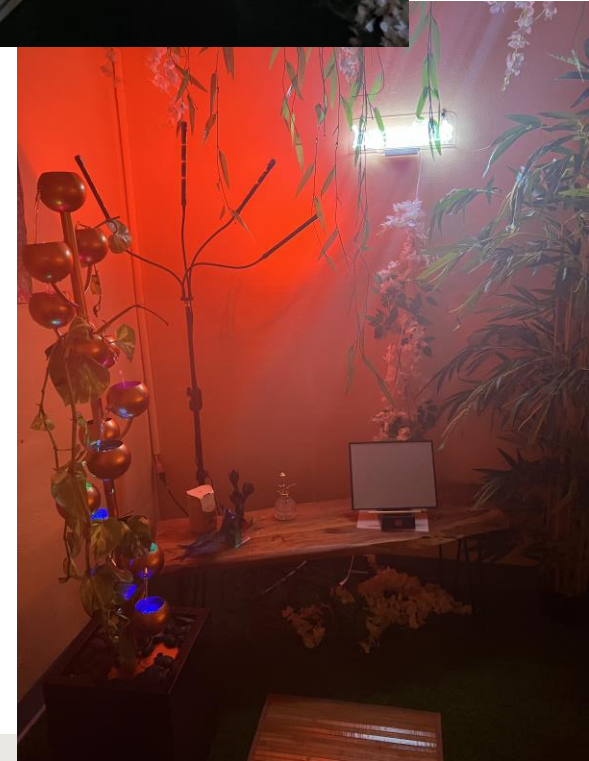
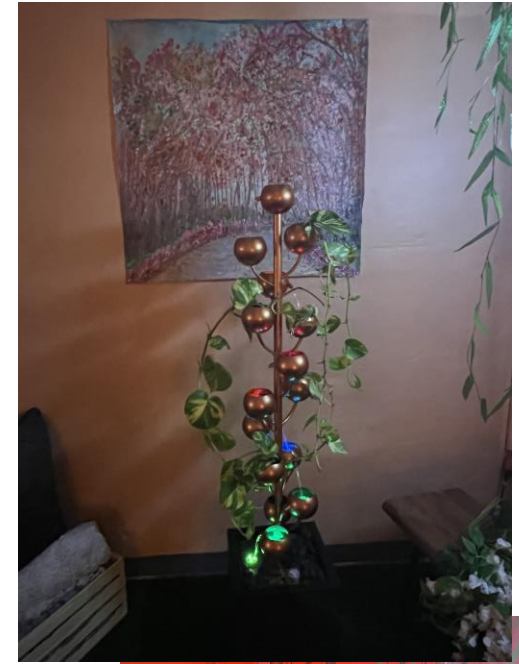
EXHALE

I steady my eyes.

BLACK LITURGIES

# THE ZEN CHILL SPOT

## A Place to Reflect and Find Calm





# THE 4CS OF VISUAL ARTS



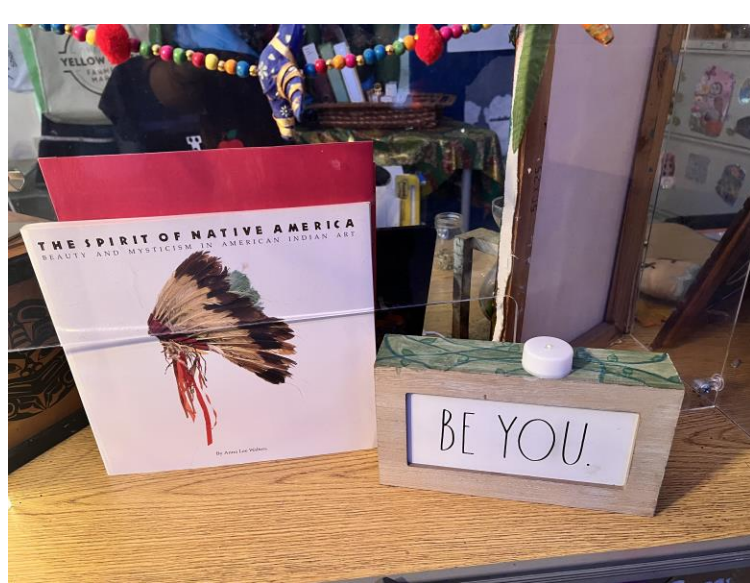
**CRAFTSMANSHIP** The quality of design & work shown in something made by hand; artistry.

**COMPOSITION** A complete work of art, and more specifically the way in which all its elements work together to produce an overall effect.

**COMMUNICATION** The imparting or exchanging of information

- VOICE
- In your creative work
- In your personal responsibility, accountability, & leadership
- Respectful & open-minded
- Open to challenging dialogue

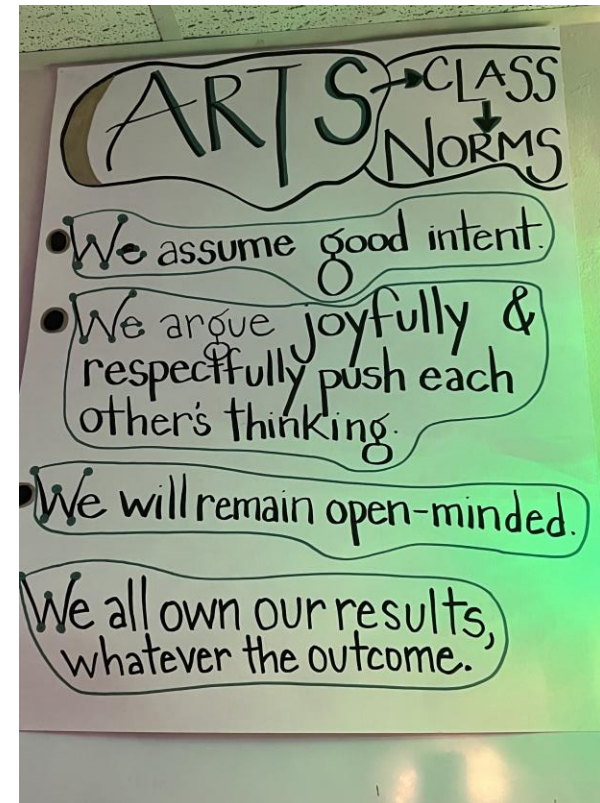
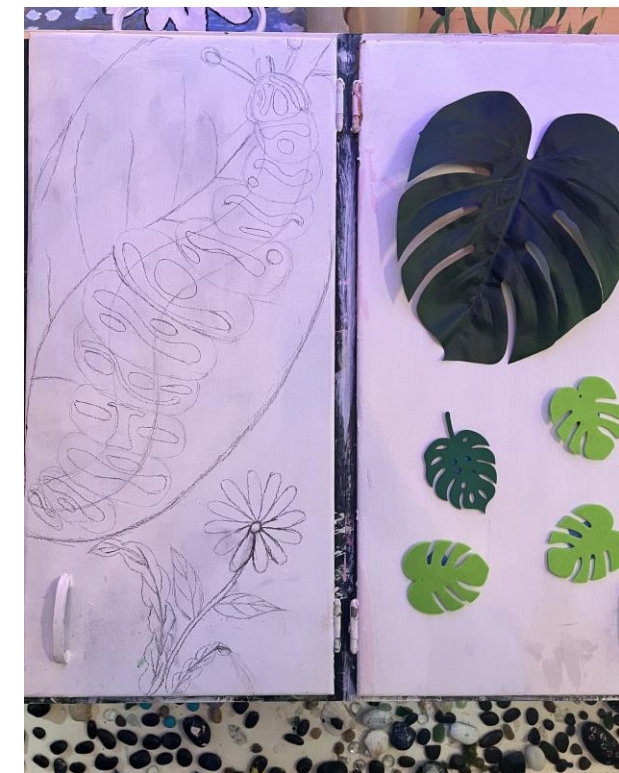
**CREATIVITY** The use of the imagination to inspire and inform others

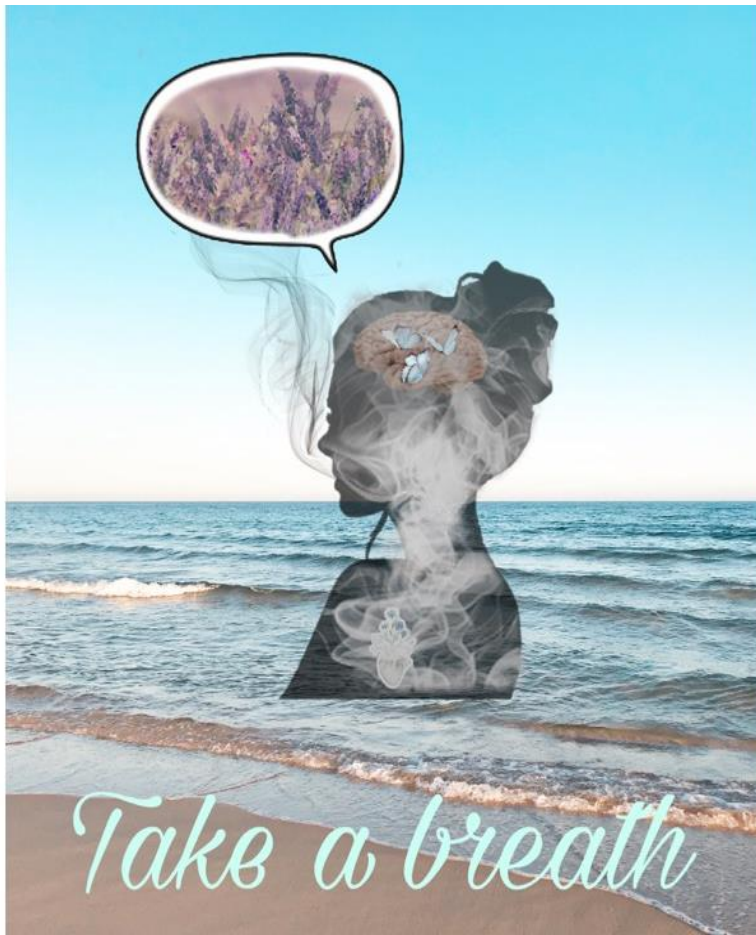


## What is the "third teacher" in teaching & learning?



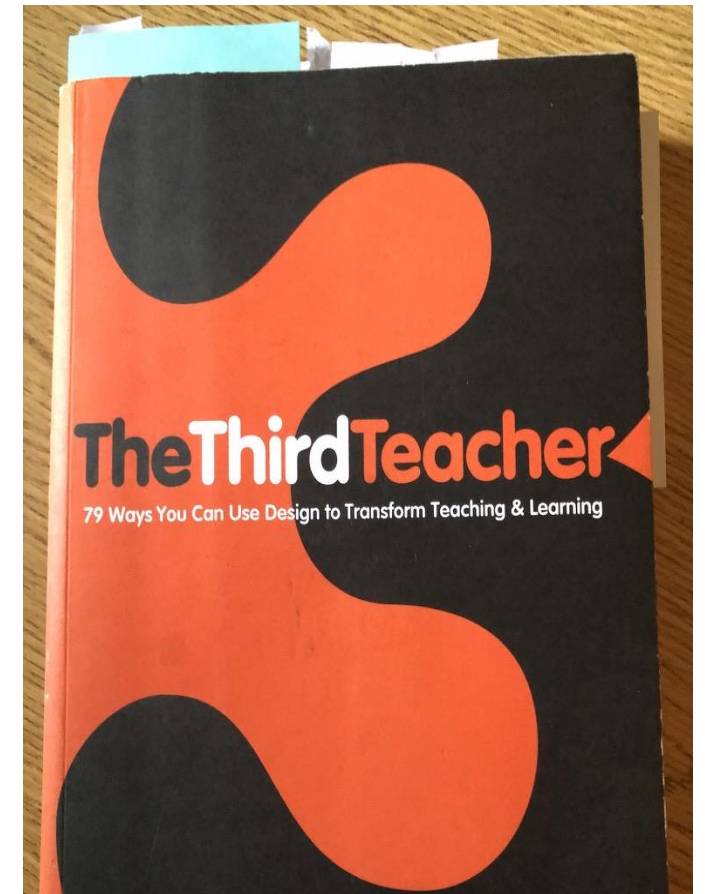
"A student's classroom environment serves as more than just a backdrop to their learning. Many modern theorists, inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach, consider the environment to act as a "third teacher" to the learner. The "first teacher" includes the adults that contribute to their child's learning. The "second teacher" includes the child's peers. The "third teacher" includes the space in which one learns. With this approach in mind, it is important to put careful thought into the intentional design of a student learning space...."

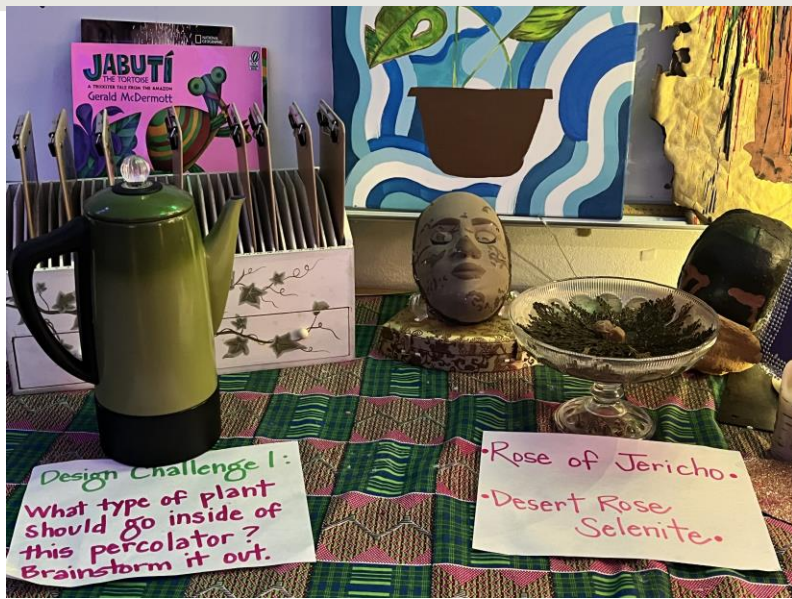




**"A classroom that is functioning successfully as a third teacher will be responsive to the children's interests, provide opportunities for children to make their thinking visible, and then foster further learning and engagement."**

—◆—  
**Susan Fraser**





“....The ‘environment as the third teacher’ approach requires us to be very **purposeful** and **deliberate** when making decisions about learning spaces. By offering environments that are **welcoming**, **flexible**, **content-rich**, and **organized**, we are supporting students in their learning process before they even walk into the classroom.”

--article notes and excerpts from “Environment as the Third Teacher: An Introduction to the Reggio Emilia Approach”, by Jennifer Duffy ([www.fomcore.com](http://www.fomcore.com))

Reasons to use  
**ROSE OF  
JERICHO**

@soulfulvibesco

Erases Negative Influences

Brings Peace

Increase Wealth

Increase Positive Energy

Prosperity

Cleanse Negativity

Abundance

Brings Harmony

SOULFUL *vibes* CO.

# A space of true learning for all community members needs to...



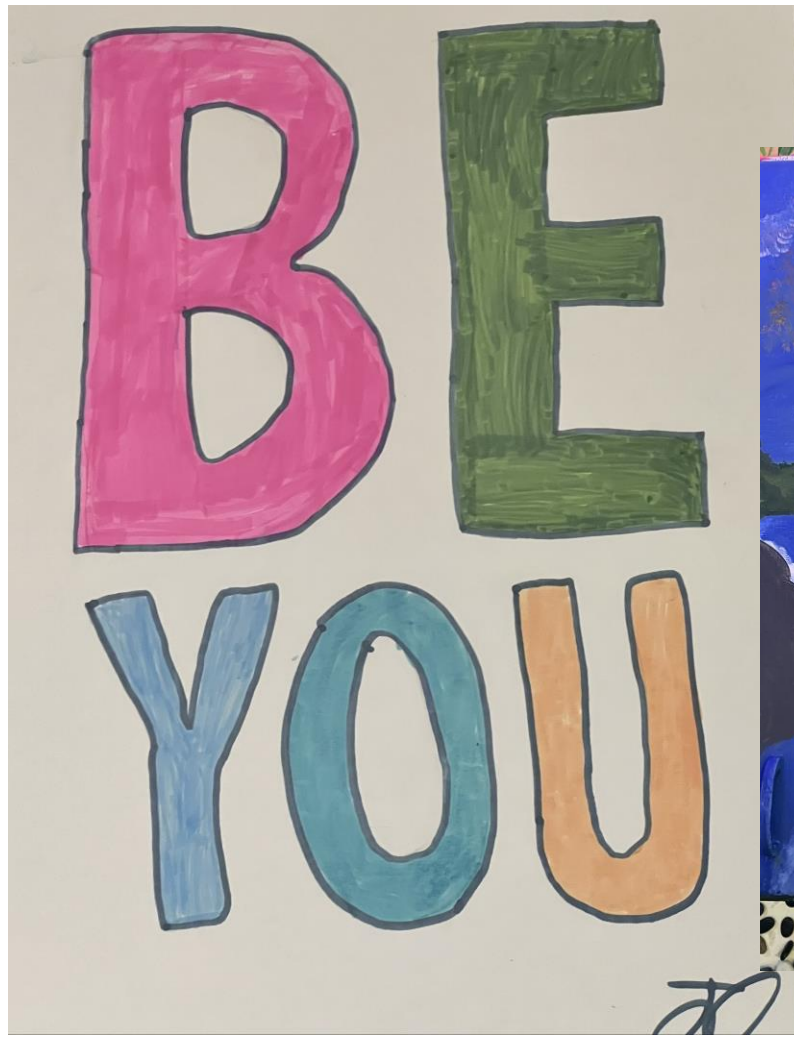
- meet the needs of the students
- be welcoming, flexible, content rich, and organized
  - create a sense of belonging and safety
- provide opportunities for deep learning and creative exploration
  - support competent and meaningful collaboration
- offer flexibility and responsiveness to changing student needs
  - encourage a mindset of curiosity about the world
- allow students to be comfortable, confident, and inquisitive
- show reflections of themselves/their learning in the design of the space

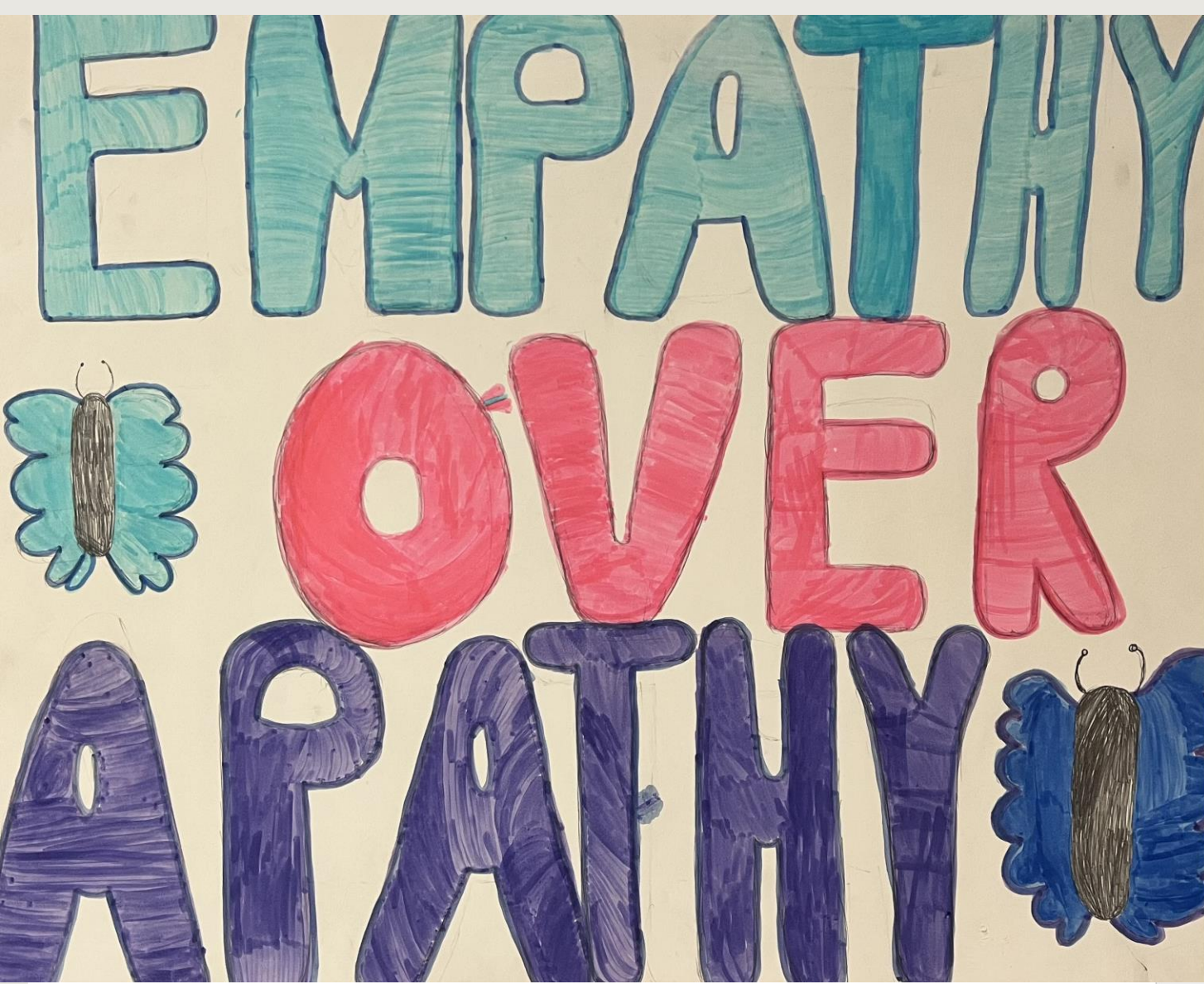


# BE YOU

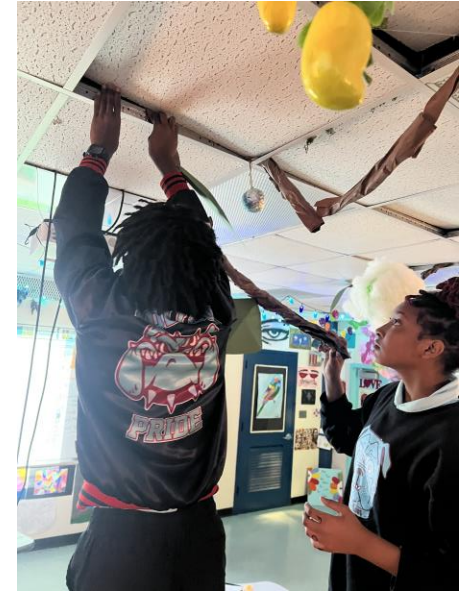
How do we celebrate and help to build and encourage the unique attributes of each of our community members?

How are being yourself and leadership intertwined?

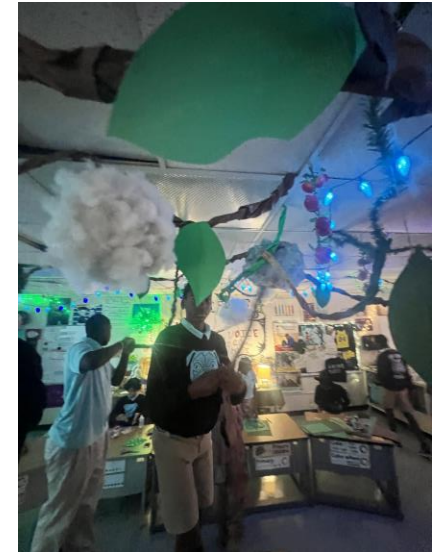




# EMPATHY OVER APATHY



What is the level of care and concern that we have for each other?  
How do we lead with humanity and dignity?





Culture  
and  
Community



# CULTURE & COMMUNITY

How do we exemplify and live the values of care and concern for each other, and celebrate and challenge each other with respectful boundaries?



# 11.

## Make it new

Look at your learning space with 21st-century eyes: Does it work for what we know about learning today, or just for what we knew about learning in the past?

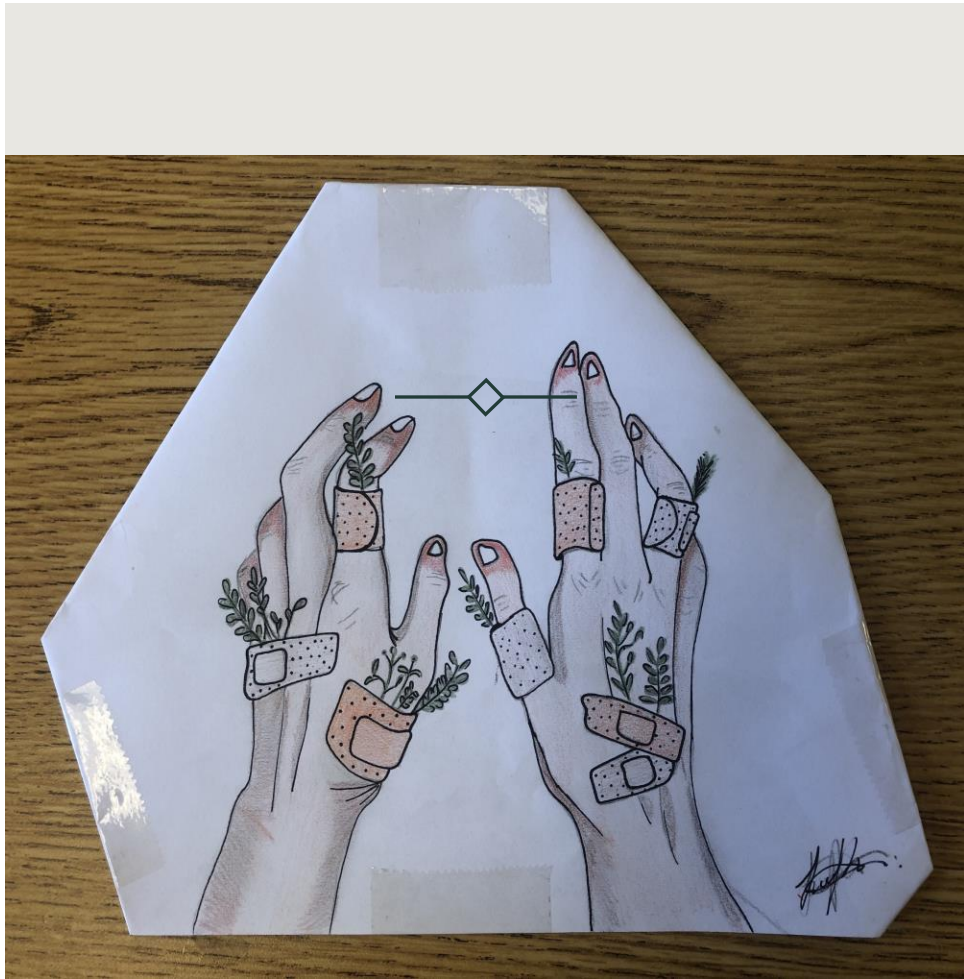




# 12.

**Support great teaching**

Free teachers from the traditional desk at the front of the classroom and encourage new settings for teaching and learning.



# 14.

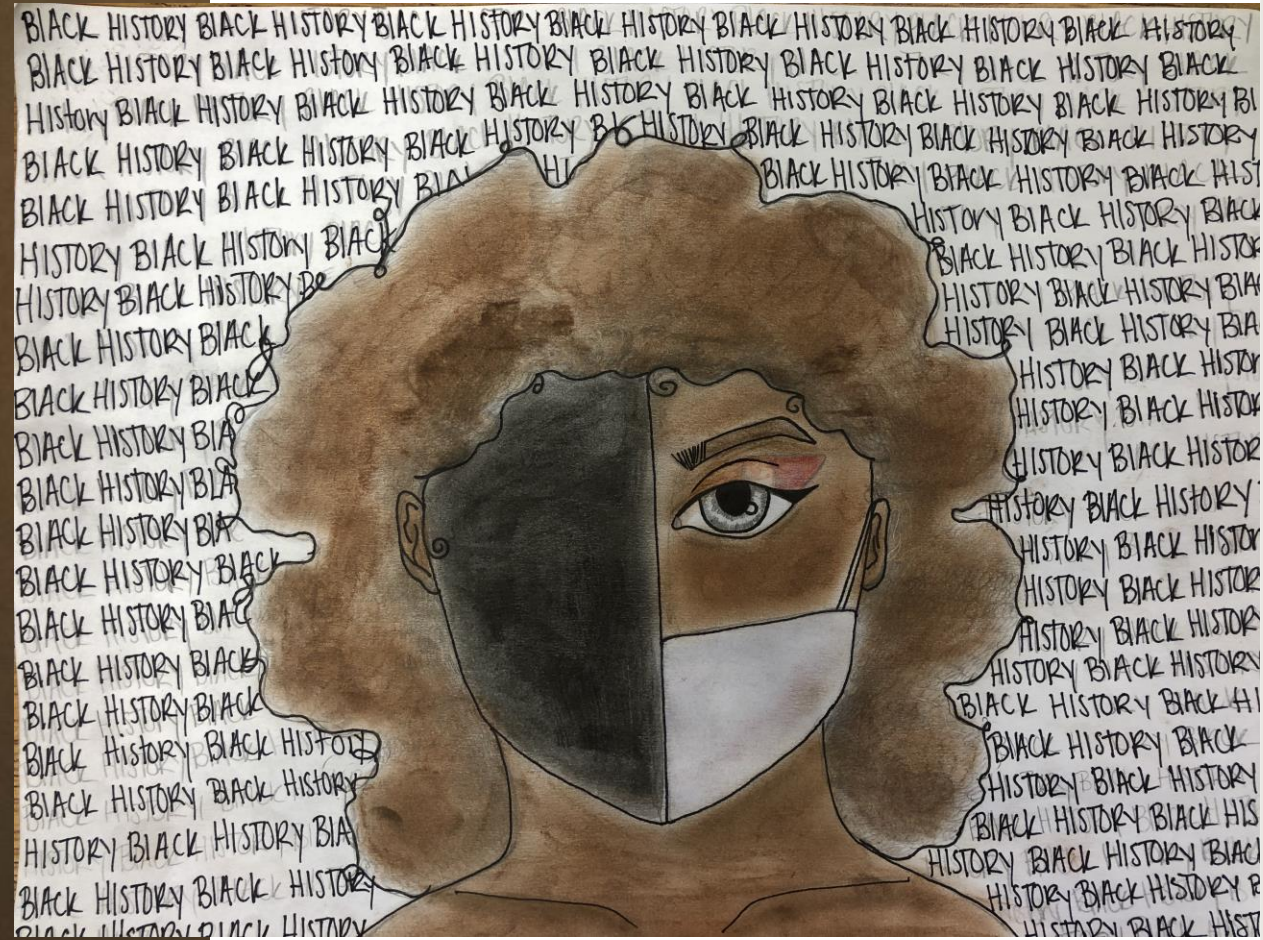
**Multiply intelligences**

Allow students time and space to choose what they want to do – their choices will illuminate their individual strengths.

# 15.

## Display learning

Posting student work,  
both current and past,  
up on the walls tracks  
progress in a visible way.





# 18.

## Unite the disciplines

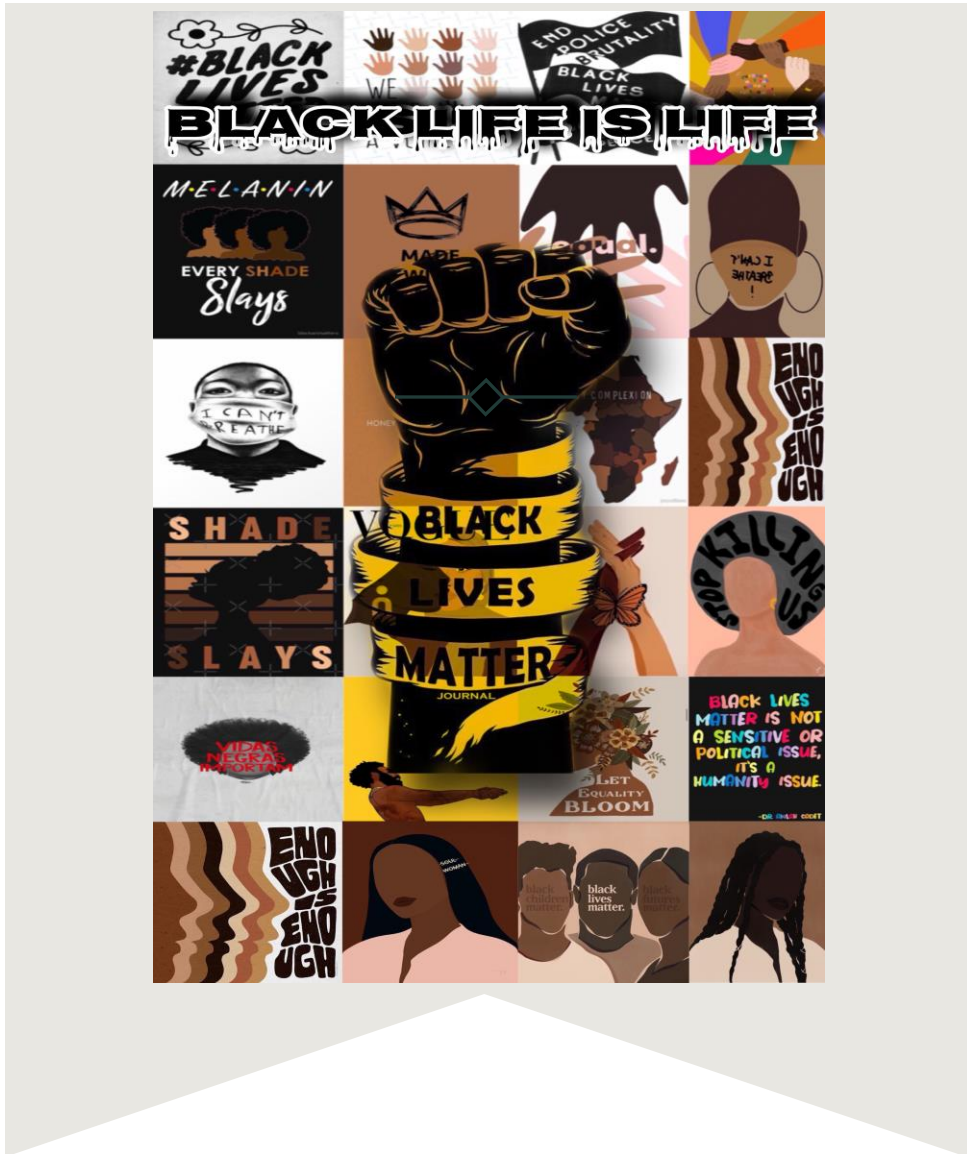
Art and science need each other. Discoveries – great and small – happen when the two come together; so give students places for cross-disciplinary work, and who knows what creative genius will flourish.

# 20.

**Make peace with  
fidgeting**

Think of it as brain  
development, which it is.  
Then think of how to  
make room for it in the  
classroom.





# 38.

## Make them proud

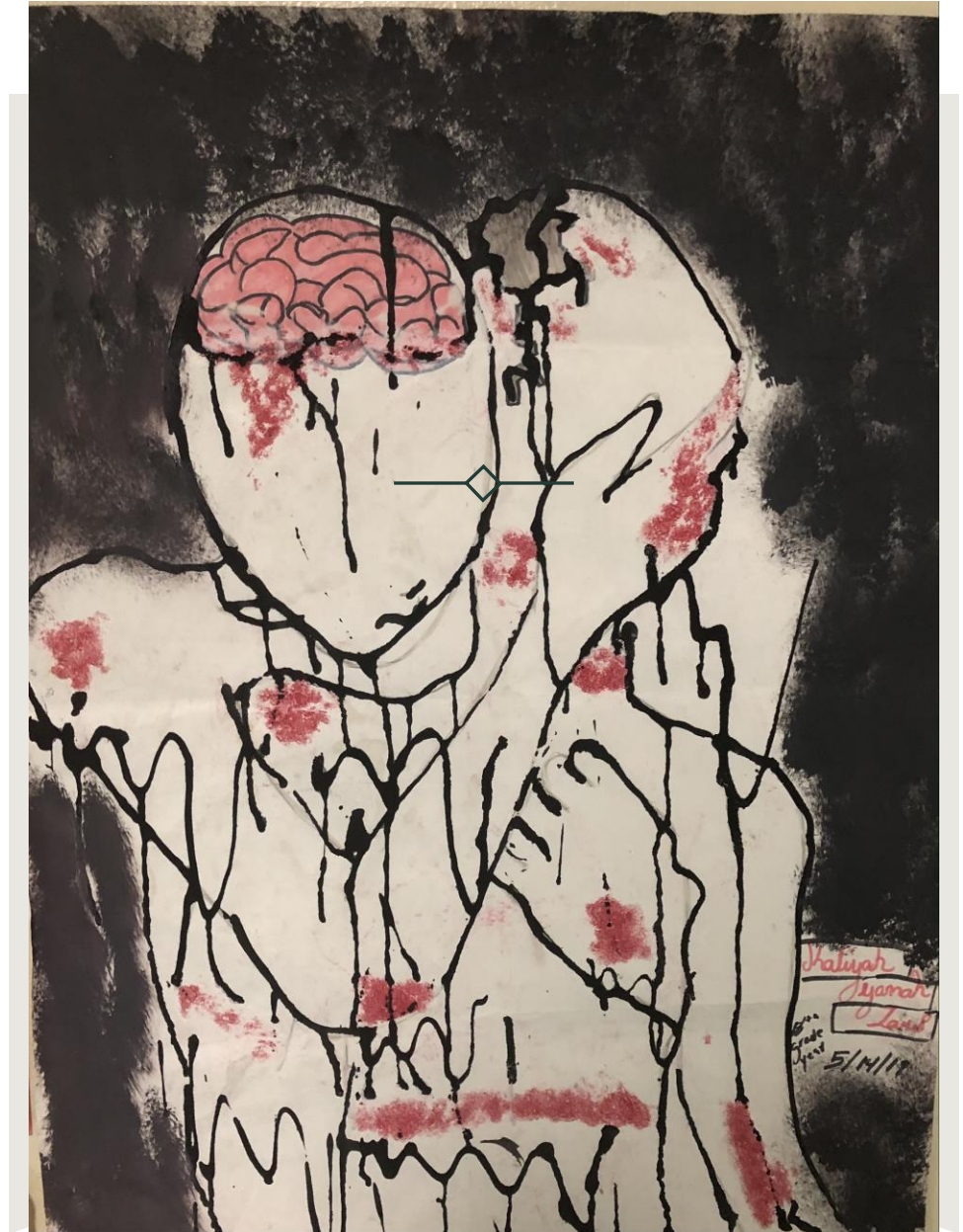
The rich cultural traditions of a school's students offer design opportunities. Embracing them is a mark of respect that tells students that where they come from matters as much as where they're going to.

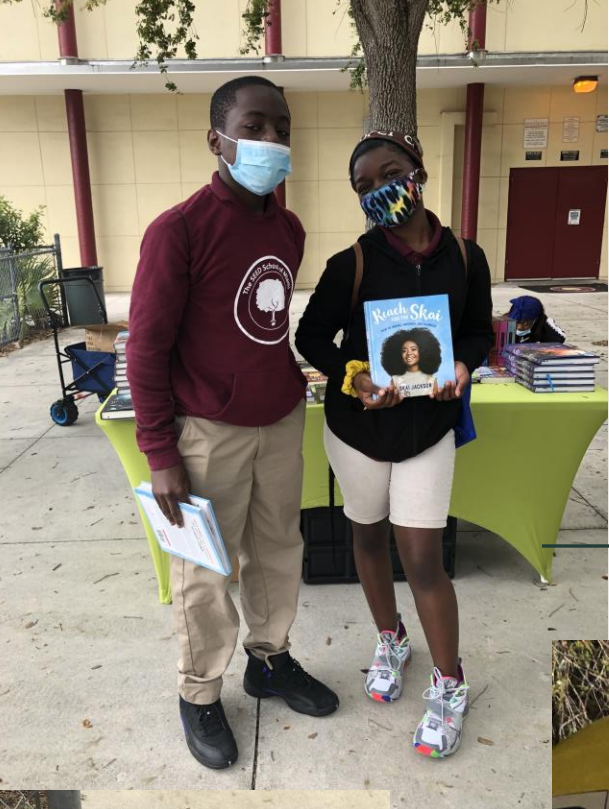


# 55.

## Trigger the senses

Sound, smell, taste, touch, and movement power memory. An environment rich in sensory experiences helps students retain and retrieve what they learn.

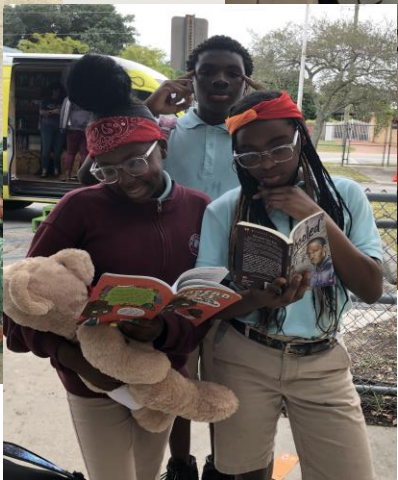




# 62.

## Put the fun in fundamentals

Injecting a learning space with playfulness and humor creates a warm and welcoming atmosphere.



# 70.

## Create a movement

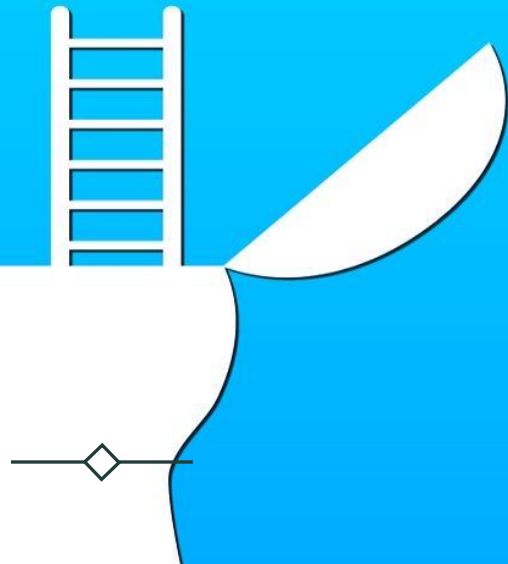
Engage in meaningful conversations about changing the education landscape. Parents, teachers, students, principals, community members, and politicians are all important and powerful stakeholders in this movement.



## Grow Over Time

From time of being at my lowest  
Trying to free myself from pain  
at the slowest  
But I just couldn't focus  
For a moment I had to notice  
I had to become a river to start  
flowing  
I write this poem unaware of my  
potential  
So I give you this message being  
a little influential  
Telling you change your mindset  
You can come up from anything in  
life as long as you are prepared,  
To take the challenges stopping  
you from greatness  
So today I tell you, fly like a  
bird while the pain dies  
Having your freedom is a choice  
But you need the change of mind

~ Dimitrius Boyd



# 72.

## Put theory into practice

Give students space – studios, workshops, and laboratories – where they can test ideas for practical applications.

