



**WISDOM**  
**CORRIDOR**  
PITTSBURGH





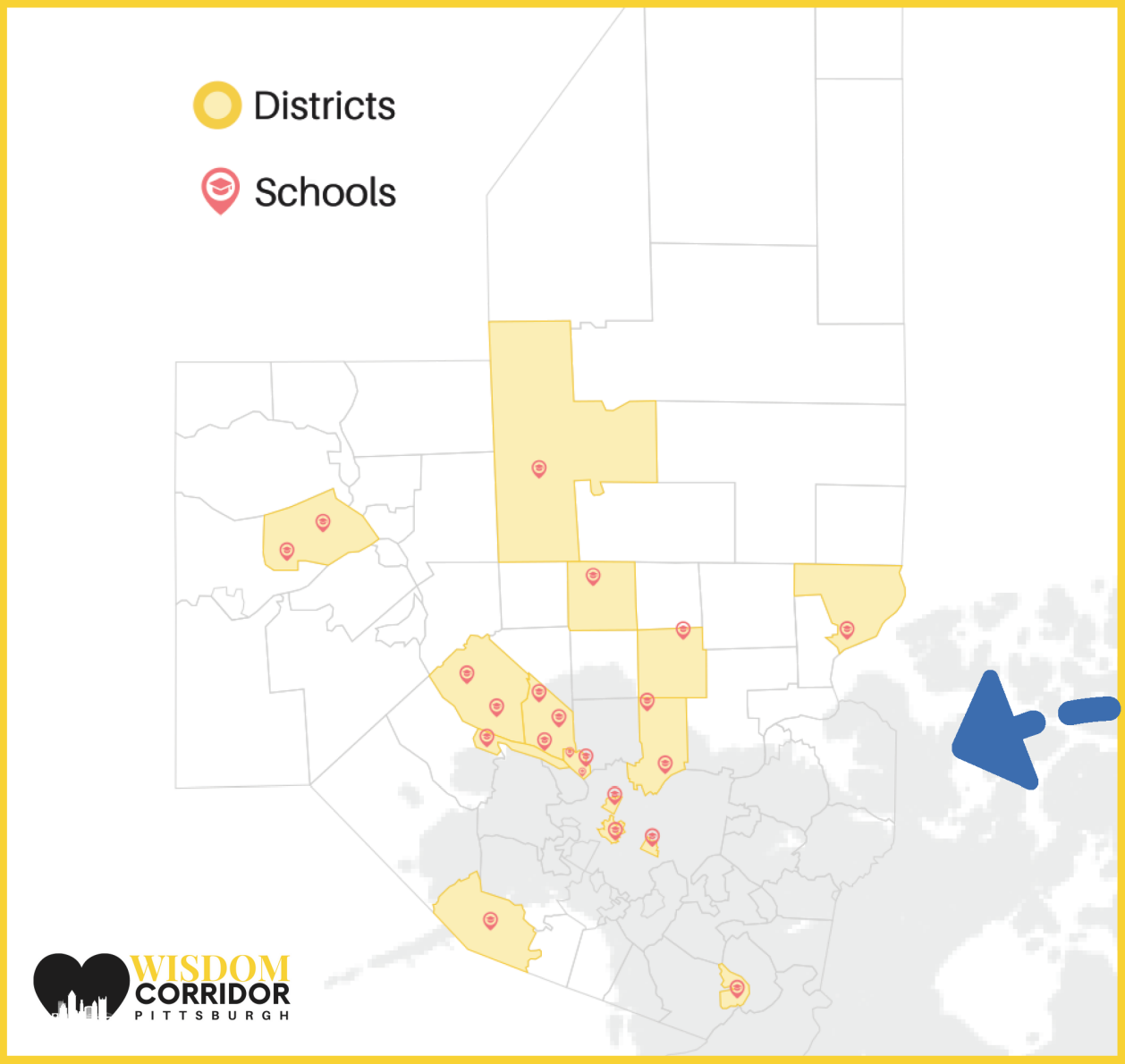
A photograph of two young girls working on a project. The girl on the left has dark hair in braids and is wearing a dark blue hoodie. The girl on the right has brown hair and glasses, wearing a light blue sweater. They are both looking down at a project on a yellow table. A brown paper bag is standing upright between them. The girl on the right is holding an orange marker. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and a red wall.

# **THE WISDOM CORRIDOR PROJECT**

**Where every voice is heard  
and every story holds value.**



# Wisdom Corridors Around the World



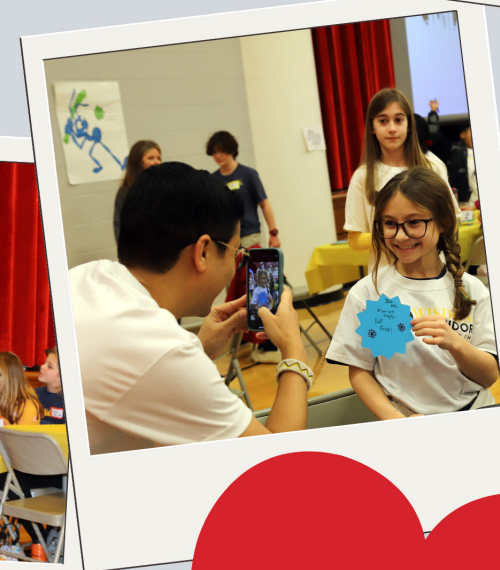
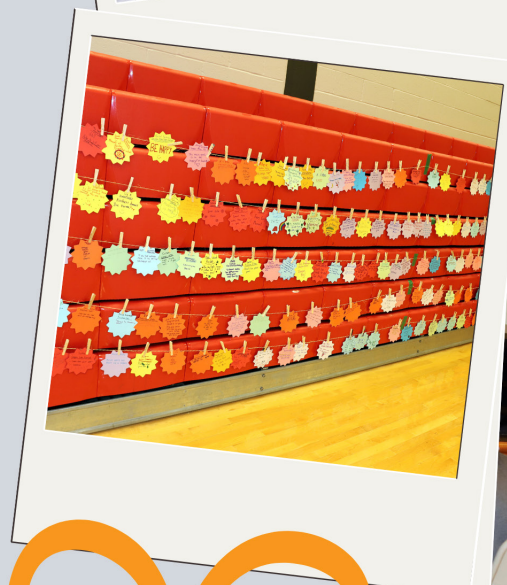
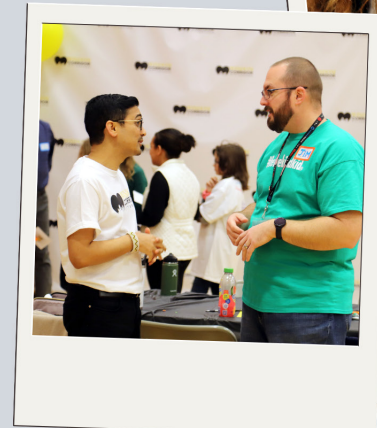


# Pittsburgh Wisdom Corridor Kickoff Event

It was an exciting day at Avonworth Primary Center when more than 175 students from 12 schools throughout Allegheny County came together for a Wisdom Corridor event on January 18, 2023.

The first cohort of Wisdom Squads gathered to learn more about teamwork, share their own wisdom and learn from one another.

Watch the  
Kickoff Event  
Video

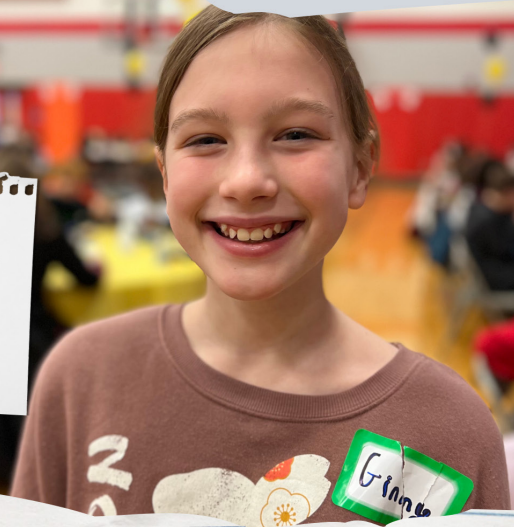




# MY Journey

thru Pittsburgh's  
**WISDOM CORRIDOR**

"I liked seeing how much people want to make the world a better place."  
~ IMOGENE (6th grade, Avonworth)



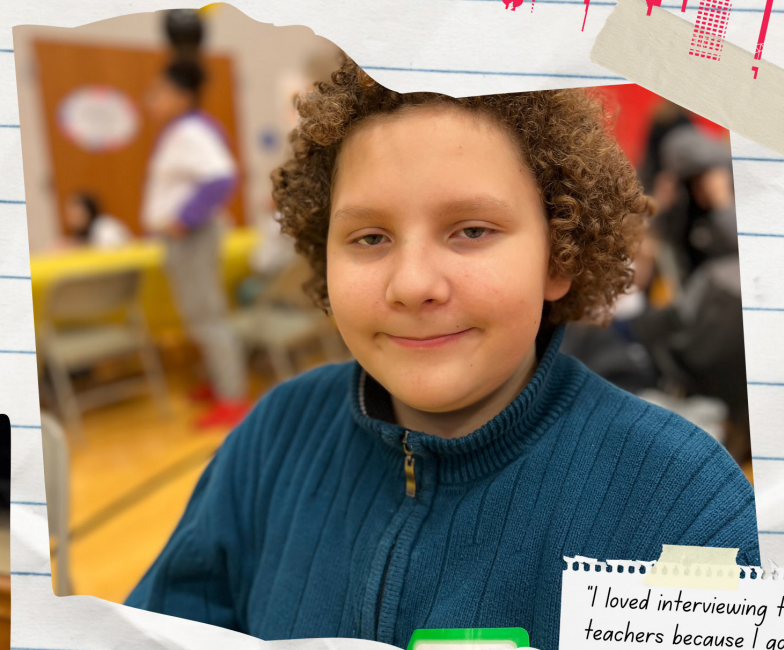
"The Wisdom Corridor is a great way to respect our teachers and understand that they're a person." ~ MABEL (8th grade, Hampton)



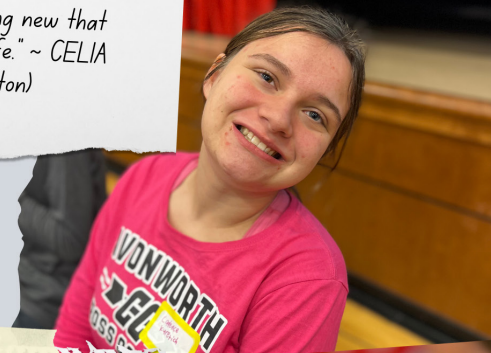
"The Wisdom Corridor is a really good way to show different life lessons and show their perspective. The teachers have a good perspective. It teaches students something new that they can use in life." ~ CELIA (8th Grade, Hampton)



"I loved interviewing the teachers because I got to learn more about them." ~ BRADLEY (6th grade, Cornell)



"I liked the writing and coloring." ~ CADENCE (8th grade, Avonworth)



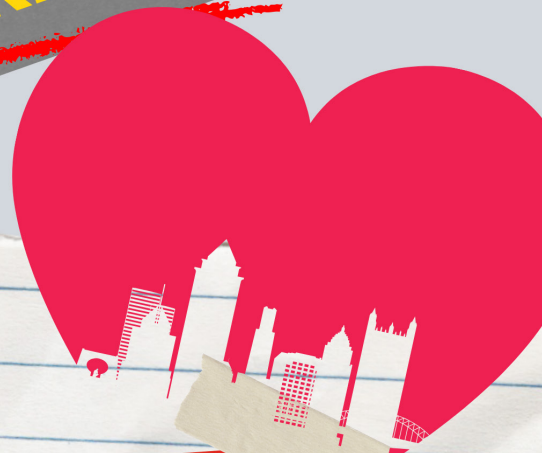
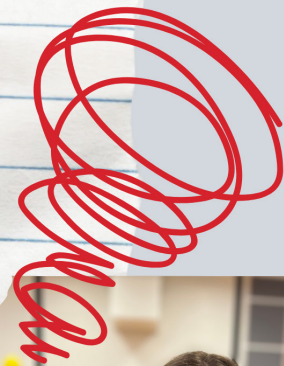
"I was looking forward to sharing inspirations! It's cool because you don't get to do that everyday." ~ MORGAN (4th grade, Avalon)



"I liked meeting all of the people and finding someone who doesn't look or talk like you but you have things in common." ~ BROOKLYN (4th grade, Avonworth)



"The interviews helped us find out how it was back then and then and we were able to have connections to another generation." ~ IZZY (Senior, Shaler)







# WISDOM CORRIDOR PITTSBURGH

## Avonworth Primary Center

Our Wisdom Corridor is filled with life lessons from children to grandparents as documented through our youth. A life lesson is a short message that people can use to teach a lesson they know, as learned through storytelling, interviewing, and documentation.

Our JAM students interviewed the teachers of the Primary Center and asked them the following question - what are your best words of wisdom? These students were ages 5-9.

We took the teachers' words of wisdom, recorded the teacher saying the words, took a picture of the teacher, and framed the information.

Among some of the best advice - "Never give up on your dreams."

Our frames are hung low so our young student population can access the QR codes with their iPads.







# WISDOM CORRIDOR PITTSBURGH

## Avonworth Elementary School



Our Wisdom Corridor Project was uniquely linked to another initiative within our school, known as the World of Work.

This program aids students in recognizing their individual strengths, utilizing John Holland's RIASEC framework (Realistic, Investigative, Artistic, Social, Enterprising, Conventional).

Through our teacher and staff displays of wisdom, we emphasize these strengths, facilitating deeper connections between our students and staff.



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# WISDOM CORRIDOR PITTSBURGH

## Avonworth High School

The Wisdom Corridor project at Avonworth High School was executed by the Partners Media Art class.

Partners Media Art stands out as a distinctive classroom environment deliberately comprising students with disabilities alongside their student buddies.

Collaboratively, Partners conducted interviews, captured headshots, and designed individualized templates for each quote. Reflecting the inclusivity of our class, we opted for an equal distribution of quotes sourced from both teachers and students.

Additionally, each quote was accompanied by translations in various languages and braille to ensure accessibility for all.

Tiffany White, High School Life Skills Teacher - "The most rewarding aspect of this experience for me was the opportunity it provided to showcase and highlight the exceptional skills possessed by my students through their involvement in the project."



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# WISDOM CORRIDOR PITTSBURGH

## Beaver Area Middle School

At Beaver Area Middle School, a group of seventh and eighth grade students, with the guidance of language arts teacher Mrs. Diamond Linn and social studies teacher Mr. Ryan Hulme, created a Wisdom Corridor.

They asked teachers three important questions then selected the best answer of the three.

The students then turned the teacher responses into posters with QR codes linking to the interviews. This interactive display offers valuable advice and is set to grow each year with new contributions from students and staff.

Diamond Linn, Educator - "Working on this project has been extremely rewarding for me. It may be the most rewarding experience I have had in my career so far. Working closely with my kids on a project outside of my content area has helped me learn so much about that. We had such a great time, and my colleagues were so pleased with participating in the interviews!"



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# WISDOM CORRIDOR PITTSBURGH

## Clairton High School

Clairton City School District is creating a waterfall of wisdom that flows from the senior high school all the way through to our elementary students.

At Clairton, all the students share a single building. The students, starting with high school students, will create a corridor of wisdom collected from adults in the community to gather life lessons to be shared with all.

This wisdom and knowledge will flow through all levels of the school so that all the students can learn from each other and our community.

This year, ten high school students received training from the Fuel Project to participate in the first cohort of the wisdom corridor. The students were trained to conduct interviews, using open-ended questions, to gather life lessons from adults in the district.

The students will transfer the information gained into the corridor for others to read and see. In future cohorts, extending to the middle school and all the way into the elementary level, Clairton will continue to expand this project until we have built a true waterfall of knowledge and wisdom that represents our diverse community.



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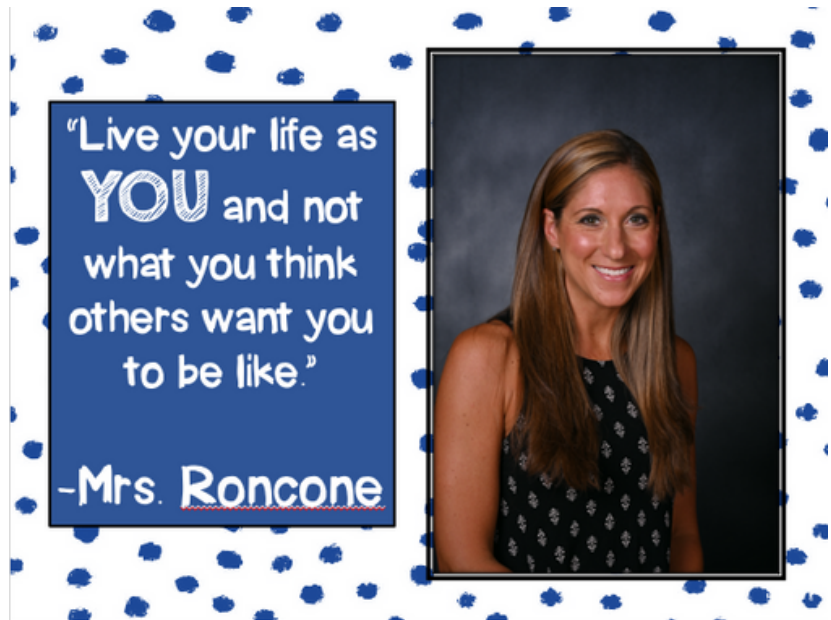
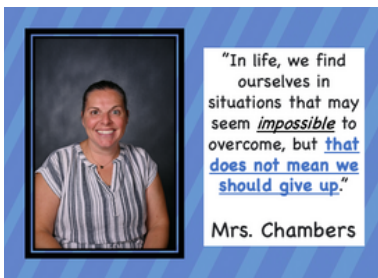
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# WISDOM CORRIDOR PITTSBURGH

## Cornell Elementary School



The Cornell Elementary Wisdom Corridor is still a work in progress!

Our hope is to make this a bright spot where students can gather some words of advice and motivation. We hope to inspire students to share their experiences on the Wisdom Team and inspire others to get involved.

We would like to see this space continue to grow and evolve over time to continue its powerful message.

Some words of wisdom from our wonderful teachers include: Live your life as YOU, pursue your dreams, and never give up!



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# WISDOM CORRIDOR PITTSBURGH

## Dutch Ridge Elementary School



Our Wisdom Corridor at Dutch Ridge Elementary is a metaphorical passage in our Specials Hallway that symbolizes the journey of knowledge and enlightenment of people in our students' lives.

It represents the pathway one takes to acquire wisdom, understanding, and insight through life experiences and learning.

The Wisdom Corridor highlights a deeper understanding of oneself and the world around them.



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# WISDOM CORRIDOR PITTSBURGH

## Eden Hall Upper Elementary School

Welcome to Eden Hall Upper Elementary School in Pine-Richland!

Last year, about 40 students worked in small groups to interview teachers throughout the district.

The students formed their interviews into written pieces about each teacher's story behind their life lesson.

The students' work is currently hanging in the hallway that leads to our wing of the school.

Our hope is to continue adding to our Wisdom Corridor each year.

Among the interviews is teacher Mrs. Bagnato. She says, "Failure is the greatest source of wisdom." As her oldest son, Geoffrey, developed a growth mindset, she realized that she needed to have one herself!

"You can get through it"

Throughout her life, Mrs. Dayton didn't always have a super easy trail to get where she is now. When she was a young kid, about 11 or 12, her friend passed away from cancer and that was a very sad loss for her. When she was just a little bit older, around her teen years, her dad and her grandfather died. As anyone would be, she was sad and missed all of them. She tried to remember that she was loved and that she can get through the hard times. Eventually she ended up working at Eden Hall, working with kids, and doing what she loves. She got through it.

Created by: Lexi Ulyas

Mrs. Dayton



Mrs. Bagnato



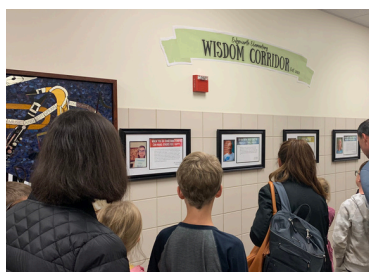
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## Edgeworth Elementary School



Several Edgeworth Elementary students learned a thing or two about life as part of a project to make them and their fellow young Quaker Valley learners a little wiser.

Learning support teacher Melissa Martinelli and academic specialist Gina Gordon worked with 10 fourth graders last year to create a Wisdom Corridor.

Students interviewed ten adults, including teachers, guidance counselors and custodians. They then took that information, as well as photographs of interviewees, and created a display of knowledge gained outside the classroom.

The project was recently finished by the now fifth graders, also known as the Wisdom Squad.



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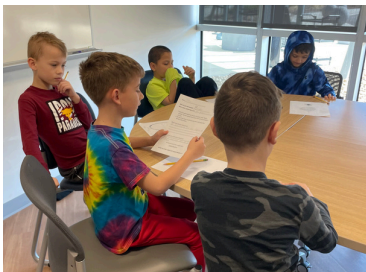
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# WISDOM CORRIDOR PITTSBURGH

## Ehrman Crest Elementary School



Ehrman Crest Elementary was designed to be a learning tool itself.

Our Wisdom Corridor compliments our building in a beautiful way by serving as a mosaic of life lessons spanning generations, meticulously curated by some of our Ehrman Crest Elementary second graders.

Each life lesson, embodies the wisdom gleaned from our staff's diverse experiences, shared through the art of storytelling, interviewing, and thoughtful documentation. This corridor ensures that for students and staff, every stroll is designed to make learning a continuous, immersive journey.



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# WISDOM CORRIDOR PITTSBURGH

## Foster Elementary School

**MRS.  
HERZOG**

With:

**ISLA SGRÖ**

**Be Kind**

Mrs. Herzog's life lesson is to be kind because she says sharing kindness not only makes other people feel better but it also makes you feel better. Being kind is Mrs. Herzog's life lesson because if you're having a tough day sharing kindness with someone else with help turn your day around!



**MRS.  
SWITZER**

With:

**EVAN BAIRD**

**Use your imagination and you will go far**

The life lesson she learned over the years and during Covid is that, "One has to learn to be happy with what you have." It's a hard life lesson because even when things aren't going your way, you may want to cry about it. Instead, you should learn to deal with it. Mrs. Priya also said to have patience with the process. She made the point of saying this is easy to say but to do is another.



**MRS.  
BELARDI**

With:

**EMMA HEISEL**

**Accept people for who they are.**

By traveling throughout the world, Mrs. Belardi believes that acceptance is the most important life lesson of all (aside from not putting your water bottle in your backpack). If everyone could be accepting of others and let them be different, the world would be a better place.



Foster Elementary School's Wisdom Squad is Mt. Lebanon School District's first cohort.

At the beginning of 2022, a group of 18 third and fourth graders were trained by Richa Nautiyal and the Project FUEL group to become empathetic interviewers. Students practiced asking open-ended questions with each other and at home to lead the interviewee to the ultimate question, "What is your life lesson?" They each chose a staff member at our school to interview formally and get their answers to the essential question. Students wrote summaries of these life lessons and they will be displayed in our Wisdom Corridor for all to read.

We also plan on publishing all of the stories in a hardback book for our school library and to donate to our local public library.



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# WISDOM CORRIDOR PITTSBURGH

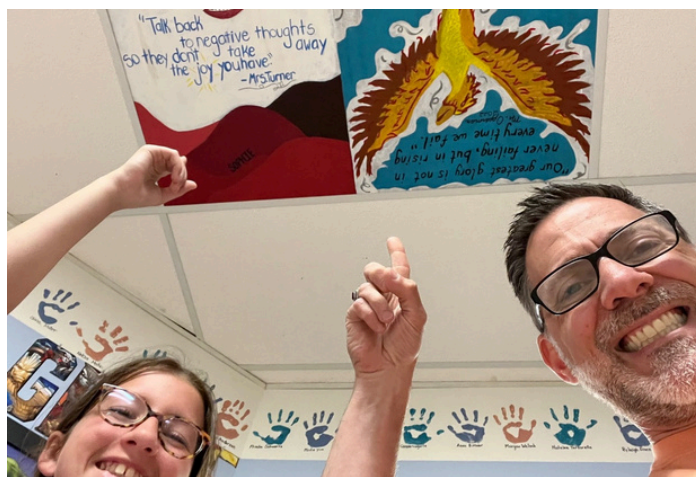
## Fred L. Aiken Elementary School

After the fifth graders interviewed the teachers and staff members at Aiken Elementary, Wisdom Corridor team leader William Oppenheim came up with the idea to paint all the words of wisdom on the ceiling tiles to be displayed outside the two fifth grade classrooms.

They labeled it the Wisdom Corridor and all the teachers phrases of wisdom were designed and painted by the fifth grader who interviewed that teacher. They came up with the design, sketched it out, and then painted it.

It also turned out to be a beautiful legacy gift for the fifth graders to leave the school before moving on to the middle school.

The students learned teachers are people that have information to share and help us grow. They learned that creativity comes in many forms when doing something artistic and they learned that we all have something to share about our lives that others can benefit from.



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# WISDOM CORRIDOR PITTSBURGH

## Hampton Middle School

Our students chose to create a Wisdom Wall near our Special Education suite and auxiliary gym. The HMS Wisdom Squad created visual displays to hang in HMS so that whenever a student is having a tough moment, or just wants to get to know the adults in the HMS community better, they can walk through our Wisdom Wall and be inspired.

Altogether, there are life lessons and stories from 13 teachers on our Wisdom Wall, and we are getting ready to add another 10 this year. They even ended up creating their own life lesson and story, as a team, about their experience working on this project.

The students on the first Wisdom Squad at HMS were recommended by teachers and counselors because they have leadership qualities and needed a chance to use those skills. It was wonderful to see how much they grew as a team over the six months of the project!

After the wall was finished, our students were surprised with a visit from Deepak Ramola, Project FUEL founder, all the way from India, to share their hard work.



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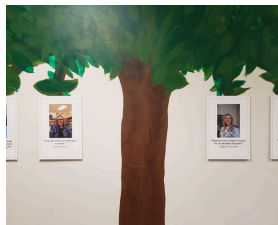
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# WISDOM CORRIDOR PITTSBURGH

## Highlands Elementary School



The Wisdom Corridor project has been an incredible space for our elementary students. They have developed important life skills and built meaningful relationships. Throughout the project, students have been exposed to a variety of valuable lessons that have helped them learn and grow as individuals. They have been able to explore different skills such as communication, empathy, problem solving, and self-reflection, among others.

The project has also provided a platform for students to build strong bonds with their peers and teachers. Through various activities and discussions, students have been able to connect with each other on a deeper level, creating a sense of community and belonging. The Wisdom Corridor project has proven to be an invaluable experience for the students, providing them with a safe and supportive environment to explore, learn, and grow. The skills and relationships developed through this project are likely to have a positive impact on the students' personal and academic lives long even after they leave elementary school.



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## Northgate School District

Our Wisdom Corridor project was a combined effort of the Northgate School District.

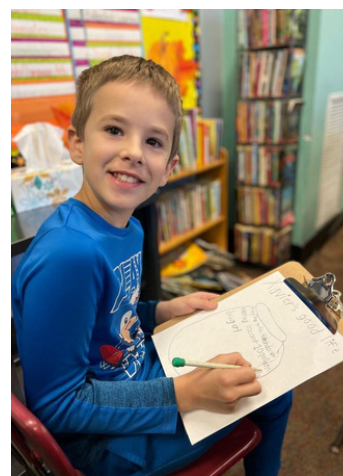
Both Avalon and Bellevue Elementary Schools, the middle school and the high school did the project together.

Teachers and students worked collectively to compile wisdom from teachers, students, and others from our three buildings to create our wall of wisdom.

This Wisdom Corridor brought the students out of their comfort shell.

They interviewed friends and adults outside their circle and learned social and emotional skills you cannot learn in a classroom setting. They learned to interact with peers outside their normal circle of friends by collaborating to come up with questions to ask the interviewee and create the final product.

Our display is located on the 7th floor of a local community AHN hospital that has been renovated to include new innovative spaces for learning. Northgate utilizes this space for a variety of activities.



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# WISDOM CORRIDOR PITTSBURGH

## Quaker Valley High School

The Wisdom Corridor Project at Quaker Valley High School is promoted by our Cultural Alliance student organization.

The group's mission is to increase empathy and understand amongst different groups of people while creating a safe space for dialogue about cultural difference, skills vital for our every-changing world.

The Cultural Alliance students have used this project as an opportunity to go beneath the surface to learn about the experiences of QVHS staff or individuals of the broader community through a special memory, life lesson, or cultural connection.

Dr. Gina M. Gordon, School Counselor - "Seeing our high schoolers lean into this unique opportunity has been incredible! I appreciated our students' openness to learning more about the Wisdom Corridor project, as well as their vision for how a Wisdom Corridor could look at Quaker Valley High School. A special shout-out to our student leaders in Cultural Alliance, as they ignited a passion to dive deeper into gaining insight and wisdom from others' stories. "



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## Shaler Area Elementary & High School



The Shaler Area School District is thrilled with the final product of their Wisdom Corridor!

Students designed a colorful and creative wall to brighten the hallway.

In May 2022, they conducted student to student interviews. Some of the words of wisdom that students gathered include:

- "Go after the things that bring you the most joy."
- "Enjoy the good times and don't take anything for granted"
- "Always ask for help when you need it."



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# WISDOM CORRIDOR PITTSBURGH

## South Fayette High School

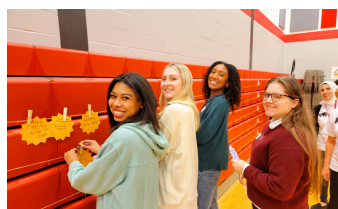
The Wisdom Corridor Project is unique because it invites students to physicalize ideas that are often only shared verbally.

In society, we memorialize important people, places, and events. Still, the wisdom acquired from those items is rarely translated through memorialization without further consideration and study of the histories that inform such representation.

By inviting students to create artifacts that promote and share the wisdom acquired from their teachers, the Wisdom Corridor Project transcends memorialization.

Our design is a portable six-foot-tall three-dimensional tree made on a CNC machine and mounted on a pedestal that will sit near a permanent installation of a wall-mounted French cleat system that will hold the current and future teacher portraits and wisdom statements.

The tree is a metaphorical representation of how wisdom grows and enriches our lives and connects us to those who have shared their wisdom with us and with whom we will share that wisdom in the future. The tree will be placed in a transition zone in our fine arts wing.



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Want to Get  
Involved?

Hey,  
Wise Friend!

There are many ways in which  
you can get involved with the  
Wisdom Corridor project:

2024



Richa  
Nautiyal



Deepak Ramola

Explore Here



- **Exploring the wisdom of Pittsburgh:** Scan the QR code to visit our wonderful website which is home to awe-inspiring life lessons of our Pittsburgh school community
- **Preserving family legacy:** Design your own corridor to preserve your family's rich legacy. Interview your family & community for their life lessons and share their stories and photos with us. We shall celebrate their wisdom by forwarding it to others across the world.
- **Humanizing workspaces:** Our designations and titles often become the view-finder through which people see us at workspaces. Let's discover the person behind it, by designing a wisdom corridor laced with insightful, deep and playful life experiences of your colleagues.
- **Want more?** Head to the <https://worldwisdommap.com/> and discover life lessons from every country in the world!



