



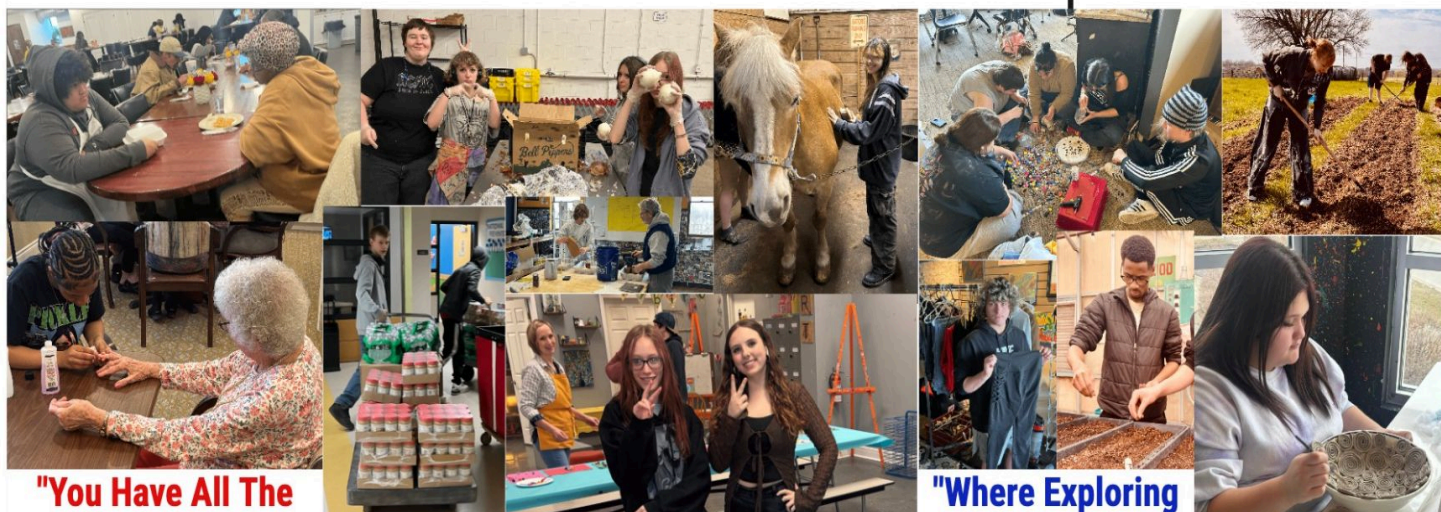
# Liberty Academy

Spring 25

## Student Showcase



*"Liberty Academy makes me feel really happy and I'm proud to be a part of something different."*



**"You Have All The Room You Need To Grow."**

**"My Imagination Can Become A Reality."**

**"Everyone Gets A Second Chance."**

**"Where Exploring Yourself Is Encouraged."**

**"Where Everyone Belongs."**

**Liberty Academy Is A Place Where . . .**

**"Where I Can Make Big Changes In My Life."**

**"Where I've Found My Passions."**

**"Where Everyone Helps Each Other."**

**"Where I've Found Opportunity & Redemption."**

**"Where I can Use Lots Of Real World Experiences To Figure Out What I Want To Do."**





Eileen's Cookies    The Sewing Lab    Jason Breit    LPS Early Childhood Center  
 KC Farm School    Renee Martin    Northland Police Academy    Nourish KC  
 Orange Easel    Mark Buhlig        Vet Center of Liberty    Great Jobs KC  
 LPS Transportation    Beth Beckett    Jake Pollard / Full Circle  
 Relentless Pursuit    LMS Staff    Missouri Conservation Department  
 Wicklunds CarStar    Liberty Community Center    Ann Grundy    LPS Copy Center  
 KC Pet Project    MCC Campuses    The Burg Family    Rob Leytham + RV Elementary  
 MCPL Withers Branch    Stephanie Spearman    Sterling Spicer Real Estate  
 Operation Breakthrough    Amber Harris    KC Zoo    Justin Presson / Trey Katzer  
 Loulla Efstathiou    Umeme    **THANK**    Megan    Northland Feed  
 LPS Grounds    Battle    **YOU!**    Nielsen    Miriam Spencer  
 Heirloom Farm    LPS DAC    Friends of the Pharis Farm  
 Rebel Song Academy    Summit Salon Academy    Assisted Transportation  
 Liberty Equestrian Center    Kevin Downing    Wellington Senior Living Center  
 Noel + Peggy Chase    Headlines Barber Academy    LPS BOE    ICare4Kids  
 Kansas City Community Gardens    Flourish Furniture Bank    Jo Macklin / Distrkct  
 Kanbe's Markets    Officer Ludwig    KC Pet Project    Meals On Wheels  
 Addison Banks + Bruce Holloway    Romond Holt    Cory Infinite    Urbavore Farms  
 LMS Cafeteria Staff    Andres Chocolates    Liberty Animal Shelter  
 Crider Welding Institute    Taylor Family Apple Orchard    Heritage Middle School  
 Schumacher Elementary    Liberty Education Foundation    Sugar Kittens Cafe

## Our LA Showcase Process



Roam

Anywhere &  
At Any Pace

Inquire

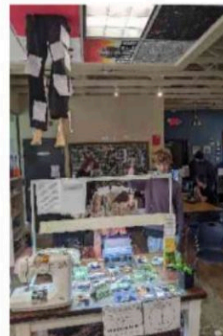
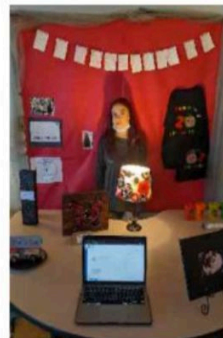
About Ideas,  
Experiences, & Activity

Discuss

Journeys, Interests,  
& Progress

### What Should You See At Each Student Station ?

A Display  
That Shows  
Each  
Student's  
Personality +  
Journey





# ***Great Conversation***

## ***Starters:***



What Was Your  
Biggest Challenge  
This Semester?

What Did You  
Learn This  
Semester About  
Life That You  
Could Pass On To  
Others?

What Was Your  
Favorite Off -  
Site Experience?

What Did You Learn  
About Yourself,  
What You're Good  
At, Or What You  
Might Want To Do  
After High School?

What Are You  
Most Proud Of  
This Semester?

Which MTC Skill  
Categories Did  
You Engage In  
The Most ?

What Are You  
Excited To Try  
Next Semester?

What Are Your  
Best Artifacts  
From This  
Semester?



# WHAT DO WE DO AT LIBERTY ACADEMY . . . .



We use massive amounts of **off - site programming** (career exploration, project work, and volunteering) to help kids better understand their **interests, aptitudes, and next steps after graduation.**

We give students in our community who have fallen behind a chance to graduate on time using **self - guided, skill based portfolios** that serve as **comprehensive learning records** of the past, present, and future.

We immerse students in an environment and culture designed to isolate deficits, heal trauma, increase self-efficacy, and rebuild the **whole child** using **agency, mentorship, conversation, and authentic experience.**

We work to **isolate and patch the academic skill gaps** most necessary for life after high school (reading comprehension, basic number sense, communication skills, financial literacy) using a framework of daily **standardized personalization.**

We give students the opportunity to **design and navigate their own secondary learning pathways** while engaging in a sustainable programming model designed to build and grow the concept of **Match Quality.**

# Thoughts That Guide Us . . .



"Developing agency is a collaborative effort where both parties stand to gain (**and lose**). Collaboration, then, is fundamentally about a relationship between two (**or more**) equals. As such, agency demands individualization, relationship, and equality. Developing a student's capacity to use their agency is difficult, complicated, and very personal work. It's unquantifiable, un-testable, and very nearly an art form. **It's also the central role of the educator.**" (**Andrew Rikard**,

"Student Agency Is Not Something You Give Or Take")

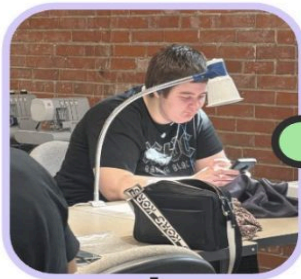
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"Like other kids, they don't all conform to the same "standards"; like other kids, they are individual and diverse. Like other kids, they have triumphs, and struggles, and doldrums, and passions, and frustrations, and joys. What an oak tree actually needs is soil and water and light and air, and what a child needs is love and stories and tools and conversation and support and guidance and access to nature and culture and the world. If a kid asks for your feedback, by all means you can give it; it would be impolite not to. **But what we should be measuring and comparing is not our children but the quality of the learning environments we provide for them.**" (**Carol Black**, "Children, Learning, And The Evaluative Gaze Of School")

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"You can do all the strength finder quizzes you want, **but your insight into yourself is constrained by your roster of previous experiences.** We learn stuff about ourselves, our interests and our strengths as we try things, so we should have a period of zig-zagging and experimentation like those athletes, like those comic book creators, like those technology inventors. And we shouldn't just see it as a sunk cost, where you say well, **"I've started down this path, so now I don't want to get off". That's not lost time. You haven't wasted it.** It doesn't mean that transitioning is easy, but you can take what you learned in one domain and bring it to the other." (**David Epstein**, "Range")





Note: Before every showcase we ask every student to take a few minutes and reflect on the prompts below. The process is not supervised and responses are not filtered, coerced, or curated.

If you have time today please chat with **Roxy Foley**. One of our students that might be getting the most out of our design / model right now. . . .

**Favorite Experience:**

"I've enjoyed all the museum trips the school has taken us on this semester. I love art and all the history behind it. I could walk through those galleries for hours."

**Favorite Thing About LA:**

"The opportunities. Many people outside the school don't understand the sheer amount of opportunity the Academy gives students access to. I have no way of painting or playing music at home, and certainly no way to go to museums, the zoo, or art galleries. The Academy connects kids to things they might never get to experience otherwise."

**Most Important Life Lesson:**

"That it's genuinely all going to be okay. I'm going to be fine, and I don't need to freak myself out about the future. I can take it step by step because I'm not doing it entirely alone anymore."

**Most Proud of Myself For:**

"I'm getting my life together. This time last year, I had no idea what I was going to do after high school. I didn't even think I'd finish high school. But now I'm applying for jobs, getting my license, and just actually trying for my future because I finally feel like I'll have one."

**LA Makes Me Feel:**

"Good. If I still went to [REDACTED] I'd probably still be skipping classes and dreading waking up every morning. The Academy saved me from having genuinely no hope for a future. I wouldn't be graduating if I didn't go here, and I wouldn't have all the friends and support I need and love."

Favorite **school project or area of engagement**  
this semester?



"I love cooking  
in the kitchen  
and practicing  
my skills."

"Probably the  
college course  
I'm taking while  
I'm at school and  
getting a head  
start."

"Probably making  
my shelf or  
tapestry. I really  
like the process of  
making things for  
myself."

"My IXL Math  
work. I've been  
getting a lot  
better at it."

"My ceiling tile  
painting of  
Amalthea from  
the Last Unicorn  
movie."

"Practicing  
the piano."

"Working in  
the garden."

"The video game I'm  
creating, building,  
and designing."



## Favorite thing about going to school at Liberty Academy?



"You can pursue your dreams whenever you're here much easier than a regular high school."

"My favorite thing about going to school here is our self directed learning."

"The opportunities. Many people outside the school don't understand the sheer amount of opportunity the Academy gives us access to."

"I've never had this many teachers at once remember my name."

"I love the way we all feel connected, it's like a huge family here."

"The freedom I have while still being able to get things done."

"Everyone here has at least one thing in common and I love being able to have creative freedom."

"I really like the lack of structure and the ability to take breaks and go on trips."

Favorite off - site **career exploratory / volunteering** experience?



"Full Circle because the people who run it seem to really care."

"The museum trips. I love art and all the history behind it."

"Meals on Wheels because it's a very simple way to help people out."

"I love Tech Tuesday at Wellington and helping seniors."

"Sugar Kittens Cafe and the Vet Center of Liberty."

"Summit Salon because we can explore cosmetology."

"Orange Easel because it's fun to work with the kids."

"Wicklunds because I enjoy doing it and it's helped me really explore a career."



# How does going to school at Liberty Academy **make you feel?**



"Definitely good. It's the best school I've ever been to."

"It makes me feel great. I'm proud of this school. It's transformed me mentally and physically."

"I feel happy. My mental state has improved since I started going here."

"It makes me feel free and understand myself in a way I haven't been before."

"I feel cared for, valued, and full of opportunity."

"It makes me feel happy. I enjoy showing up daily."

"Really happy and proud to be a part of something different."

"I'm so glad I made the choice to come here two years ago. This school has really helped me open up and find who I want to be in the world."

What's one thing you're really **proud of yourself** for this semester?



"I am proud of the drawing skills that I've developed and everything I've learned."

"I'm really proud of myself for overcoming all of the hardships that have been thrown at me this past year and have finally gotten to point in my life where I've found peace, stability, a healthy relationship, and am finally learning to love myself."

"I'm getting my life together. I didn't think I'd finish high school but now I'm applying for jobs, getting my license, and just actually trying for my future because I finally feel like I'll have one."

"Getting out of my comfort zone."

"I used to have terrible patience but now I feel like I'm more willing to wait for things I want."

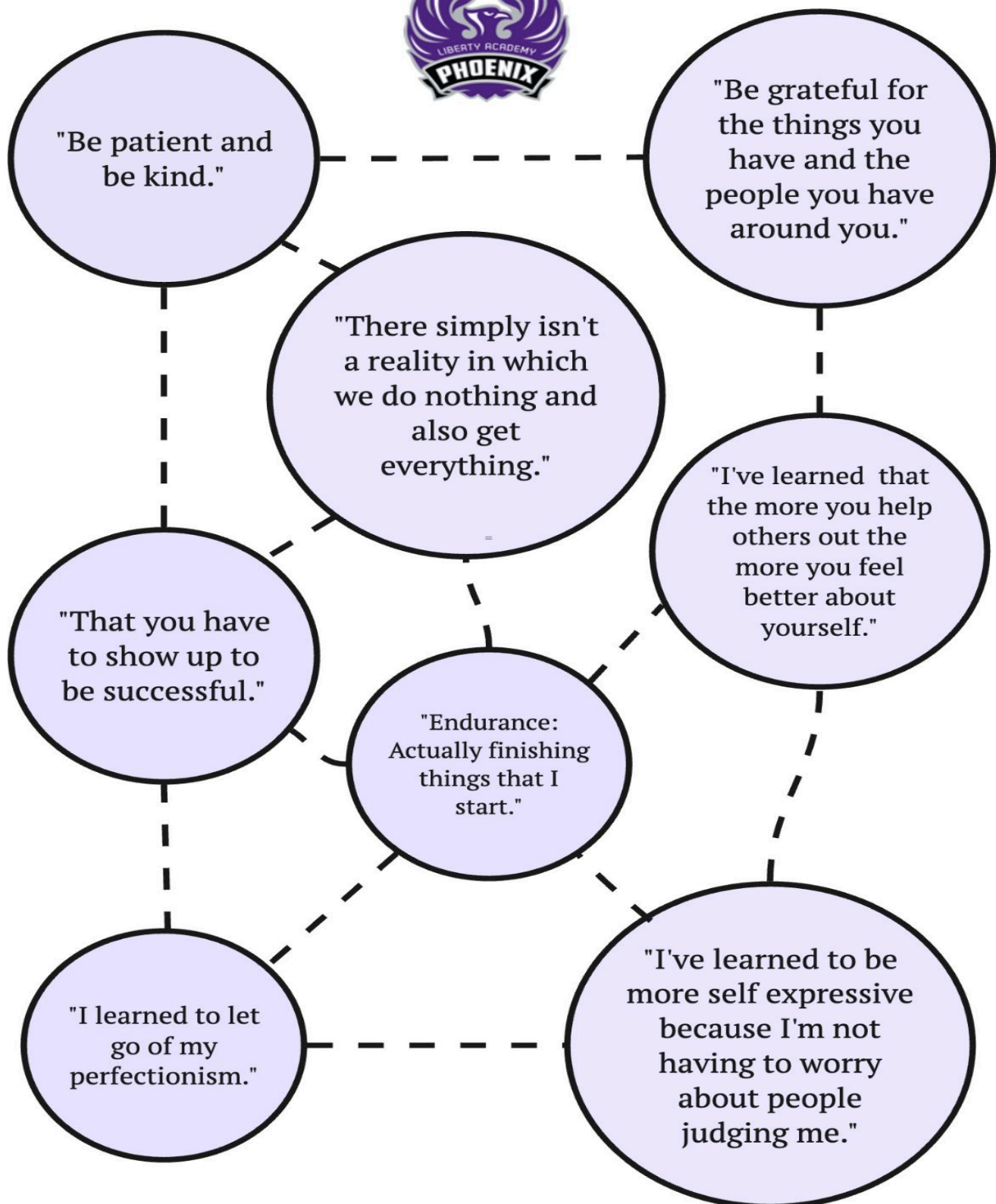
"Just growing as a person."

"Keeping myself accountable for my own actions."

"I feel like my overall mentality about school has improved. Before I hated going to school and dreaded going every day and often tried to get out of going to school as much as possible. I don't hate it here at all and I even look forward to coming to school and am excited about what I'll get to do."



What's the most **valuable lesson you've learned** about life, learning, or yourself this semester?



A little boy planted a carrot seed.

His mother said, "I'm afraid it won't come up."

His father said, "I'm afraid it won't come up."

And his big brother said, "It won't come up."

Every day the little boy pulled up the weeds around the seed and sprinkled the ground with water.

But nothing came up.

And nothing came up.

Everyone kept saying it wouldn't come up.

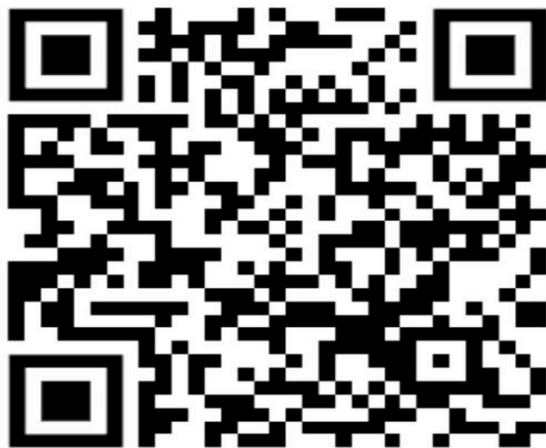
But he still pulled up the weeds around it every day.

And sprinkled the ground with water.

And then one day

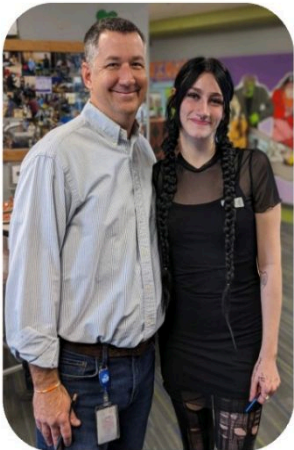
**A carrot came up.**

Just as the little boy had **known it would.**



***SCAN HERE TO READ MORE  
ABOUT LIBERTY ACADEMY..***





L



People grow  
when they are  
loved well.  
If you want to  
help others  
heal, love  
them without  
an agenda.

A



## Post Burst Student Reflections (4 x Per Year)

Please use everything you've reflected on and documented above to write a little more about how you feel you've grown as a person over the last 6 weeks? Please be as honest and thoughtful as possible. Our main goal is to help you build your own understanding of the progress you're making and how you're using the opportunities you have at Liberty Academy to better understand yourself and the person you hope to be in the future. (100 Word Minimum)

2 Things I Focused and Improved on This Burst

1. Social interaction- There were a few times this burst that I lost my cool, left school and even argued with teachers. Once I realized I'm mad at myself and not my environment, I started working on staying calm and staying in school even when it's hard.
2. Writing Skills - Last burst I wrote a poetry book. This burst I focused on improving my informative/non fiction writing and learning how to use word choice to make it fun to read. This is something I experimented with, as non fiction writing or reading isn't my preference.

This is the bulding that saved my life.





Please use everything you've reflected on and documented above to write a little more about how you feel you've grown as a person over the last 6 weeks? Please be as honest and thoughtful as possible. Our main goal is to help you build your own understanding of the progress you're making and how you're using the opportunities you have at Liberty Academy to better understand yourself and the person you hope to be in the future. (100 Word Minimum)



Over the last 6 weeks at school i've grown in ways i didn't expect. Meals on wheels taught me the importance of kindness and giving back. Gardening helped me develop patience and care, reminding me that both in plants and in life takes time. Art helped gave me a creative outlet to express myself. Cinema club expanded my perspective on story-telling, psychology, and human behavior. these experiences have shaped me into a more compassionate, thoughtful, and observant person. even tho im already all of those

Please use everything you've reflected on and documented above to write a little more about how you feel you've grown as a person over the last 6 weeks? Please be as honest and thoughtful as possible. Our main goal is to help you build your own understanding of the progress you're making and how you're using the opportunities you have at Liberty Academy to better understand yourself and the person you hope to be in the future. (100 Word Minimum)

last semester I hated school and would make any and every excuse not to go to school. within these past weeks I have felt so much better about myself because I don't have the constant stress of a letter determining my entire future. I also don't dread coming to school everyday, I look forward to the trips I go on throughout the weeks, and enjoy the activities I do in the day. I feel like coming to the academy was the best choice I made for myself and im glad to be here.



## Phases Of A Phoenix Graduation Project

Something changes when you learn someone's story. When you slow down and listen to what makes our students who they are. When you hear about their experiences you gain a greater understanding of the decisions they make, the passions they carry, and their perspectives on life. We grow empathetic. We give more grace. We celebrate their wins. We move from acceptance to understanding.

Students at Liberty Academy have often been othered. For one reason or another, things didn't work out at their previous high school. Every one of them has a story to tell. A story that is powerful. A story that is inspiring. A story that challenges our preconceptions. A story that needs to be heard. And in many ways, a story that is still being written.

**These are their stories.**



# Phases Of A Phoenix



Looking back on my personal growth, it's amazing to see how far I've come. There was a time when I was often overwhelmed by anger and fear. Life felt like a constant struggle, and I reacted to challenges with frustration, defensiveness, and uncertainty. I couldn't always see beyond the moment, and my emotions would often cloud my judgment. But over time, I've learned how to step back, reflect, and approach situations with a clearer perspective.

The transformation has been gradual, but profound. I've realized that while emotions are natural, they don't have to control me. Instead of allowing anger to dictate my actions, I've learned to pause and assess situations more thoughtfully. I've developed a better understanding of myself and how I react to the world around me. With this self-awareness, I've become more capable of walking away from conflict, not out of fear or defeat, but out of a desire to preserve my peace and see the bigger picture. There's power in letting go and choosing not to engage in battles that don't serve my growth. I've come to understand that walking away doesn't mean I'm weak—it means I value my mental and emotional well-being more than the need to be right or to win every argument. By stepping back, I've learned to focus on what truly matters, to consider long-term outcomes instead of short-term victories, and to invest my energy in things that will lead to positive change.

This shift in mindset hasn't been easy, but it's been one of the most valuable lessons of my life. I've grown into someone who doesn't react impulsively, but instead takes the time to reflect, learn, and choose my next steps carefully. I'm no longer bound by the anger and fear that once held me back. Now, I see the bigger picture, and I walk forward with confidence, knowing that growth often comes from the ability to pause, reflect, and let go.

**Angry, Scared → Development, Maturity**

# Phases Of A Phoenix



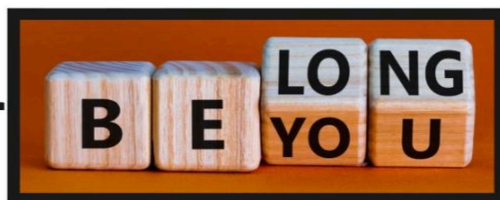
## Phases of a Phoenix

A word(s) that describes me best before coming to LA would be Lost, Overwhelmed, Curious, and Uncertain. A good word(s) that describes me now is Grounded, Focused, and Resilient. I started as someone seeking answers, possibly carrying uncertainty or doubt about my path. Through hard work, introspection, and courage, I've transitioned into a place of confidence and purpose. Now, as I prepare for my next phase in life, I am not just embracing change, I'm creating it. My journey has been one of courage and resilience. It's the story of someone who faced uncertainty head-on and used it as a springboard for growth. It's about finding clarity amidst chaos and turning lessons into strength. Each chapter has built upon the last, transforming me into someone with a powerful sense of purpose. As I look into the future, it's no longer about if I'll succeed but about how I'll define success for myself. This transformation is not just personal—it's inspirational, a testament to what's possible when I align with my true self.

P.S. - Please let me graduate.

**Lost, Overwhelmed, Curious, Uncertain → Grounded, Focused, Resilient**





## What's Your Favorite Thing About Going To School At Liberty Academy?

**"It Makes Me Feel Amazing And Like I Fit In."** (Current Student)

At some point, everyone who spends time at Liberty Academy usually says, **"It just feels different."** Creating a sense of **belonging** is foundational to what we do and it starts with agency, trust, support, and acceptance. We want every person that walks through our doors (student, staff, and visitor) to feel as though they're in a great place to grow and someplace they can both be themselves and find themselves. Every Wednesday, we check in with our kids to see how they're doing, how we can help, and how to make sure we're staying connected. Here are the questions we ask and our most recent bank of responses from Burst four:

1

**93 % - Strongly Agree / Agree**

Even though I might be having a bad day or a rough week, I feel connected to our school, understand what we do and how / why we do it, and genuinely feel as though it's a great place for me at this stage of my life.

**7% Disagree**

2

**95 % - Strongly Agree / Agree**

Most of the time I feel very confident that I'm growing as both a student and a person thanks to the environment, opportunities, and community I get to be a part of at Liberty Academy.

**5% Disagree**

3

**93 % - Strongly Agree / Agree**

Most days I really look forward to going to school at Liberty Academy. It's a place where I feel safe, cared for by the staff / others, and have the freedom to be myself.

**7% Disagree**

4

**95 % - Strongly Agree / Agree**

I'm constantly working to be my best self at Liberty Academy. I'm learning to manage my emotions / heal trauma, challenge myself academically, figure out who I am, and prepare for the future.

**5% Disagree**

**Explore.**



**Serve.**

**Engage.**



**Heal.**

**Connect.**



**Grow.**

*1200 Hours  
Of Off-Site & Real World  
Experiences Per Semester*



*Personalized Project  
Design + Pathway Building*

We don't do public school  
like **anyone** else....



*Authentic Skill Practice vs.  
Standardized Content  
Acquisition*



*Over 1200 Skill Based  
Personalized Projects Per  
Semester*

*30-35 Off - Site Trips Per  
Week Customized To  
Student Interest + Skill  
Preference*

*"Here's to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The troublemakers. The round pegs in the square holes. The ones who see things differently. They're not fond of rules. And they have no respect for the status quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them. About the only thing you can't do is ignore them. Because they change things. They push the human race forward.*

*And while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do." (Steve Jobs)*





MASTERY  
TRANSCRIPT  
CONSORTIUM.

# "Wait, What Do You Mean You Don't Use Grades?"



**Purpose.** At Liberty Academy, our programming is designed for interest based exploration, collaborative menu design, real world off-campus engagement, and long term personal growth.

Our daily environment is communal with a strong focus on human agency, mentor based relationships, and personalized pathway design in a competency based academic setting. Our students don't have classrooms, our teachers don't have desks, and our schedule is subject free and flexible to the hour. Our school isn't designed to help students prepare for specific careers, it's designed to help students figure out what comes next as a result of the things they're learning about themselves. We believe that innate talent and world changing potential come standard in every student. We're designed to help kids find that talent, explore it, and think deeply about how they want to use it.


**Process.** Our curriculum is not designed around the consumption of standardized content. It's designed around the things that give students the ability to live a life of purpose, opportunity, and stability; contextual and application based learning opportunities, continuous support and care, rich experience, authentic choice and the development of voice, mentorship, transferrable skill sets, and academic competencies that connect to an ever-changing world of work.

**Product.** Students submit a portfolio of evidence to earn each mastery credit. The featured evidence displayed on the mastery transcript are individual pieces of evidence from a variety of portfolios that the student has chosen to feature. These provide an authentic snapshot of the breadth and quality of work indicative of this student. Additionally, many credits on the mastery transcript have a single piece of evidence attached to them. This evidence was selected by the student from the portfolio of work used to earn that particular credit, and gives the reader a window into the type of work associated with the credit.

# What Does This Look Like?



About



Profile

Email: [REDACTED]

Student Id: [REDACTED]

Start Date of Enrollment: 8/23/2021

Graduation date: Not graduated yet

Address: [REDACTED]

Student Statement

Edit

Approved

I believe that creativity and honesty can make the world a better place. I hope to make a living with my art so that I can continue to do what I enjoy and live comfortably doing it. I can persevere through projects and am talented and creative.

Start revision

Delete

Personal Statement

Credit Distribution

Foundational Credit (FC)

In progress FC

Advanced Credit (AC)

In progress AC

Communication Literacy

Career Exploration & Talent Development

Mathematical Reasoning & Application

Understanding Myself

Creative Expression

Exploring Our World: Past, Present & Future


Helping Others

29

Skill Status

Evidence details

Update



Coping, Growing, & Learning

Approved

I created many sketches throughout the semester.

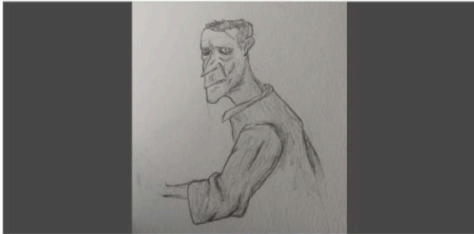
Role:

Duration:

Featured Evidence

Artifact

Skill



IMG\_20220308\_100031187

What I've Learned

Highlights

Three to five bullet points. Use verbs to describe noteworthy activities involved in completing the work. May also include the work's accolades or impact.

I learned it can be hard working with younger kids sometimes but when you get to know the kids and start working with them, it's fun for them and you.

I chose to showcase this piece of evidence because I enjoy working with kids, and this was a good opportunity for me to practice this skill for a potential career someday.

Something else I really want you to know is that just because you have siblings doesn't mean it's going to be easy to work with kids. You have to be able to communicate with the kids effectively.

5/12/23: I did research and went on trips to decide what I want to do after I graduate


10/18/23: Took notes about my after graduation plan

After Graduation plans

image\_123650291 (5)

Update

Delete



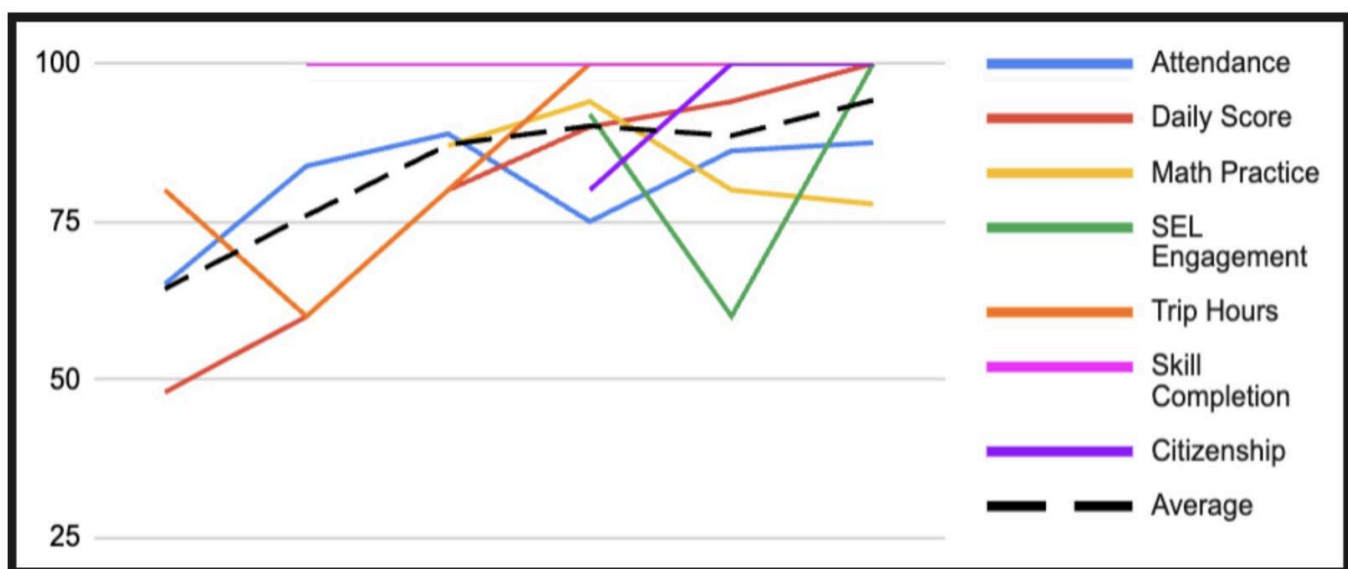


## Using Data To Help Kids Grow, Share Their Stories, & Plan For The Future



At Liberty Academy, we value individual growth (personal + academic) above all else and strive to ensure that the data we collect (on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis) correlates to that value. Every student has their own data profile that is used to guide decisions, drive conversation, and build personalized graduation pathways. Our collection process is intuitive, responsive, and designed to be formative rather than summative. We want every student to fully understand how their activity, engagement, and partnership effects their data and how their data effects their ability to grow, heal, transform, and graduate.

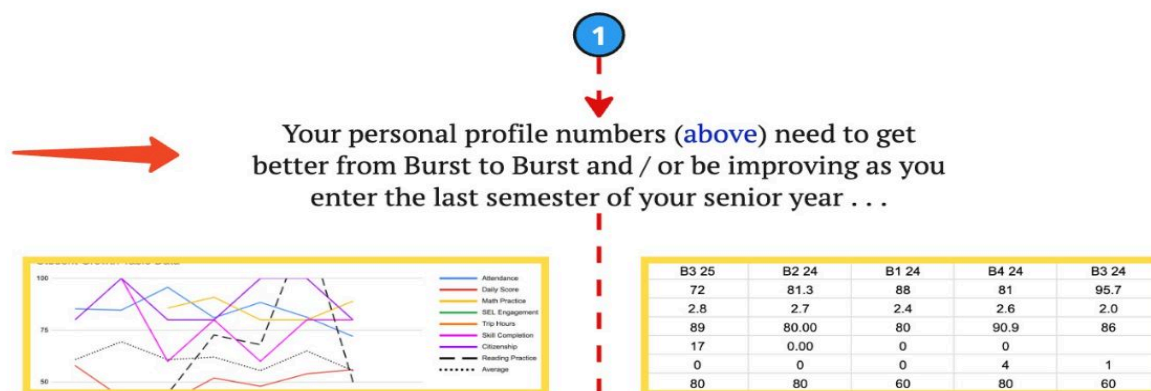
LA Student	B2 - 2023 (10/30 - 12 / 8)	B1 - 2023 (9/5 - 10/13)	B4 - 2023 (3/31 - 5/8)
Average Burst Attendance	83.3	94.8	100
Average Daily Engagement Score	2.2	2.9	3.1
Math Engagement	88.9	87	94
SEL Workshop Engagement	50	0	50
Off Site / SL / RWL Hours	12.5	5	8
MTC Skill Completion / Mastery		22	25
Minor Behaviors Charted	2	0	0
Major Behaviors Charted		0	0
Aggregate Behavior Per Burst	2	0	0
Reading / Math / Core Skill Practice			



# How Do I Graduate From LA ? ← - - ➔ You've Got To Grow To Go . . .

## What Data Do We Collect & Value ?

- ✓ Daily Attendance (LA Standard is 80% or Constant Improvement)
- ✓ Average Daily Engagement Score (LA Standard is 2.0 or Better) (Using Daily Organizer Scores)
- ✓ Off Site Career Exploration + Volunteering Hours (LA Standard is 12 Hours Per Burst)
- ✓ Skill Completion % (LA Standard is 5 Skills Per Burst / 60 Hours = 100%)
- ✓ SEL + Reading Practice + Math Practice (Minimum Hours Per Burst)



2

As you enter your last scheduled semester at LA, you must have two successive positive (back to back) Burst experiences in order to be eligible to graduate. In order to do this, students need to have met LA standards in 3 of the first 4 areas above and have completed at least 5 of 6 (83%) skill completion credits . . .

3

If your profile numbers are good but not great then you'll head into your last Burst on probation and need to improve your data in specific areas in order to graduate. If your profile numbers are great (4 of 4 + 100% skill completion) heading into phase two then you'll simply have to continue that pattern in order to graduate on time. If your numbers dip below the criteria in step 3 then you'll most likely need to repeat phase one of the Burst pathway process and extend your graduation period by at least one Burst.

4

All other school specific, district specific, or state specific requirements have been met: MTC credential updated, state testing, EOC's, Phases Of Phoenix, etc.









THANKS FOR COMING!