

Portrait of a Learner

Community Feedback Survey

Oakwood City Schools
October 2025

Executive Summary
110 Responses



PARTICIPATION Breakdown of Participation



Q1: In your opinion, what are the most important skills or traits graduates need for success in life?

SUMMARY - Graduates need a combination of **resilience, critical thinking, and communication skills** to succeed. These include **adaptability, financial literacy, and problem-solving abilities**. Strong **interpersonal and teamwork skills** are valued alongside traits like **empathy, integrity, and grit**. Being able to **manage time, handle criticism, and stay accountable** is crucial, as is a willingness to learn continuously and navigate technological advancements. **Social awareness, a sense of community, and a balance** of personal and professional drive are necessary to build **meaningful relationships** and make **informed decisions** in a changing world.



PARTICIPATION


Breakdown of Participation



Which of the following skills, mindsets, and attributes should be prioritized in the Portrait of a Learner?
(Select all that apply. Feel free to add others.)



62
Responses

%		Answer <i>(Multiple select)</i>
87%	(54)	Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
74%	(46)	Effective Communication (Oral and Written)
55%	(34)	Creativity and Innovation
74%	(46)	Adaptability and Flexibility
71%	(44)	Collaboration and Teamwork
61%	(38)	Empathy and Compassion
69%	(43)	Resilience and Perseverance
48%	(30)	Cultural Awareness and Global Mindset
50%	(31)	Leadership and Initiative
60%	(37)	Civic Responsibility
68%	(42)	Emotional Intelligence
53%	(33)	Ethical Decision-Making
63%	(39)	Self-Direction and Motivation



PARTICIPATION

Breakdown of Participation



Q3: What do you hope an Oakwood graduate will be known for?

SUMMARY - Oakwood graduates are hoped to be known for a blend of intelligence, kindness, and integrity, demonstrating compassion and empathy in their interactions. They should engage civically and socially, bring positive change, and contribute meaningfully to society. Critical thinking, problem-solving, and adaptability are valued, alongside emotional resilience and a strong work ethic. Their education should prepare them for future endeavors, fostering open-mindedness, responsibility, and a commitment to social justice. Graduates are expected to maintain high ethical standards, engage in respectful dialogues, and have an appreciation for diversity, reflecting a strong sense of community and civic responsibility.



PARTICIPATION

Breakdown of Participation



Q4: In your current job (or most recent job), what are the top 3 skills you use most frequently to be successful?

SUMMARY - The responses emphasize the frequent use of **communication skills**, often described as effective, concise, or passionate. **Emotional intelligence**, **problem-solving**, and **adaptability** are also recurrently mentioned, highlighting their importance in **managing conflicts** and **fostering teamwork**. Skills in **time management**, **organization**, and **critical thinking** are often noted, alongside **self-motivation** and a **dedication to continuous learning and self-improvement**. Many also stress the significance of **empathy**, **creativity**, and **strategic thinking**, reflecting a need to effectively address diverse challenges in their roles. Additionally, **collaboration**, **patience**, and **technical skills** like **negotiation**, **mathematics**, and **technology use** are commonly referenced.



PARTICIPATION

Breakdown of Participation



Q5: What is one life skill you believe should be taught in school but often isn't?

SUMMARY - The responses highlight a diverse range of life skills that respondents feel should be incorporated into school curriculums.

Financial literacy and management emerge as a significant theme, pointing to the importance of budgeting, investing, and understanding fiscal responsibility. Other notable skills include **fostering resilience and failure tolerance,** teaching effective **communication,** and developing **empathy** and **open-mindedness.** Additionally, the ability to accept and **learn from failure, critical thinking, entrepreneurship, and cultural acceptance** are underscored. Respondents also mention practical skills like **home economics, career planning, study skills, decision-making, and self-awareness in communication and etiquette.**



PARTICIPATION

Breakdown of Participation



Q6: What is one experience all students should have before graduating?

SUMMARY - Students should engage in experiences such as **balancing a checking account, public speaking, and completing a capstone project** that addresses real-world issues. Activities like **job shadowing, internships, and career exploration** allow them to discover potential career paths. **Community service and volunteering with diverse communities** foster empathy and humility, while **travel and cultural immersion** broaden their perspectives. Students benefit from leadership opportunities, teamwork, handling failure, and achieving success. They should work on **personal projects that align with their passions and receive feedback**. These experiences collectively prepare students for challenges, resilience, and informed decision-making post-graduation.



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Breakdown of Participation



Q7: What kind of learning experiences do you believe best prepare students for life after graduation?

SUMMARY - The text emphasizes the importance of **diverse, experiential learning opportunities** that prepare students for life post-graduation. Respondents highlight real-world experiences such as **internships, mentorship, studying abroad, and service trips** as crucial. **Hands-on projects, collaborative team work, and creative problem-solving** are deemed effective for skill development, empathy, and adaptability. Learning methods that foster independence, resilience, and practical skills, like financial literacy, are advocated. **Authentic assignments, field trips, and cross-curricular projects** are valued for their ability to integrate essential skills. The significance of failure as a learning tool and the need for students to explore varied career paths are recurrent themes.



PARTICIPATION

Breakdown of Participation



Q8: What values should all students carry with them into adulthood?

SUMMARY - Students should carry values such as **integrity, empathy, curiosity, and responsibility** into adulthood. Key attributes include the **ability to admit errors, openness to diverse perspectives, and commitment to community and self-improvement**. Emphasis is placed on **honesty, respect, hard work, kindness, humility, adaptability, and ethical integrity**. Developing **effective communication skills and maintaining relationships** also stand out as vital. Lastly, **understanding privilege and striving for inclusivity** are highlighted. These values collectively aim to foster productive, respectful, and ethical adults who can positively impact their communities.



PARTICIPATION

Breakdown of Participation



Q9: In one sentence, describe your vision of a "future-ready" student.

SUMMARY - A "future-ready" student is adaptable, curious, and equipped with critical thinking skills, embracing technology and diverse perspectives. They demonstrate resilience, social awareness, and readiness to contribute meaningfully to society. They possess emotional intelligence, confidence, and a strong work ethic, prepared to engage with and question emerging technologies. These students are lifelong learners, open-minded, empathetic, and effective communicators, able to collaborate with others, handle setbacks, and navigate the world with integrity and humility. Ultimately, they are scholars and leaders ready to inspire others, tackle new challenges, and forge creative pathways in unpredictable environments.



PARTICIPATION

Breakdown of Participation



Q10: Is there anything else you'd like to share that can help us shape our Portrait of a Learner?

SUMMARY -

- The responses emphasize the importance of a holistic approach to education, highlighting the need for **emotional intelligence, communication, and interpersonal skills alongside academic achievements**.
- **Concerns regarding overemphasis on grades and testing show a desire for greater focus on creativity, soft skills, and experiential learning like community service and internships.**
- Respondents call for **revisiting traditional learning methods and incorporating practical skills**, while expressing concerns about the effects of technology and competition in schools.
- There is a strong belief in recognizing **diverse learning styles** and **promoting character education** to prepare **well-rounded individuals** for the real world.