

# **Portrait of a Learner**

## **Oakwood Rotary Feedback - October 17, 2025**

### ***Question #1: What is the purpose of school?***

**Group Summary** - Across all nine table groups, the participants agreed that the core purpose of school is to achieve future readiness by providing a foundation of knowledge, critical thinking, and discipline necessary for lifelong learning, college, and career. An equally strong theme was the essential role of schools in socialization and character development, teaching students to be good citizens who build communities, engage in teamwork, and cultivate humanity skills like empathy and respect. Essentially, students see school as a crucial training ground that balances academic skills with the emotional and social competencies needed for life.

#### **Table 1:**

- Prepared: college, work, enjoying school
- Knowledgeable citizens
- Open to community service
- Complex problem solving
- Making the next community
- Lifelong learning
- Socialization
- Discipline

#### **Table 2:**

- Learn (not just book smarts)
- Socialization and interaction with others
- Leadership
- Gives you a mindset for after school
- Work with others and respect authority
- A sense of community
- Find what you love (passion)
- Sense of belonging
- Lifelong learner
- Constructively have conversations

#### **Table 3:**

- To prepare the students to be productive in the future
- To learn socialization skills
- Learn to apply what you know to your life around you (ex: teams, friends, etc.)
- How to be part of a team and contribute
- Prepare students for life after school

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#### **Table 4:**

- Prepare for future
- Provide education, opportunity - foundation
- Opportunity: sports, curriculum
- Learn skills to be a good citizen
- Build mind
- Discipline
- listen/consider other opinions
- Consistency
- Self-reflection

#### **Table 5:**

- Responsibility,
- Integrity
- social-behavior /norms, learn to balance schoolwork and connections (close and international community)
- Prepare for outside work
- Get along with others
- Critical thinking
- Adaptability
- Grit should be learned, even if not taught

#### **Table 6**

- Become a good citizen, prepare for life
- To communicate
- To understand how the world works
- A simulation of life
- To build relationships, sense of community
- To give back, find your people, find yourself

#### **Table 7**

- Build knowledge, skills, respect, relationships
- College prep - sparking interest in a career
- Critical thinking
- Teaching good nutrition
- Become a lifelong learner

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### **Table 8:**

- Emotional and social development
- Create communities
- Prepare students for life
- teamwork

### **Table 9:**

- To educate people on fundamental ideas that help you success outside of school
- It engages students and produces an effective society
- Facilitates learning of morals like empathy and kindness
- Give students skills so they can be independent
- Teaches kids to get humanity skills in terms of relationships

### ***Question #2: What does success look like after graduation - in career and life?***

**Group Summary - The consensus defines post-graduation success as achieving a state of self-determined happiness and fulfillment in one's life and career, rooted in knowing one's purpose and possessing the independence and resilience to pursue it. Crucially, this personal satisfaction must be coupled with the responsibility to be a contributing member of society who cultivates strong relationships, gives back to the community, and commits to continuous growth and lifelong learning.**

### **Table 1:**

- Self-determined - education, business, faith, etc.
- Self-motivated and sustained
- Meet your potential - using tools given in school to go farther
- Find calling in calling

### **Table 2:**

- Independent and confident
- Having goals and a plan
- Knowing who you are
- Happiness
- Long-term relationships, emphasis on community
- Contributing member to society (give back to community)
- Develop skill sets and interests
- Having open-mindedness

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### **Table 3:**

- Happy life
- Satisfied
- Continuing to drive forward
- Contributing to whatever you're doing
- Have confidence
- Figuring out what you want to do then do it
- Goals

### **Table 4:**

- Being able to do something to help others
- Self-sufficiency
- Enjoy what you do
- Always look beyond - be brave and dare
- Give more than you took
- Understanding sense of purpose
- Commit to being a lifelong learner

### **Table 5:**

- Happiness
- Paying, not accumulating, taxes
- In a position where you are satisfied and contribute to society
- Fulfilled
- Having life skills
- Financial independence
- Find what you're good at, stick with it till you love it

### **Table 6:**

- Being aware you can fail, and learn from it
- Try to make a difference in the world
- Pass your skills, raise good kids
- Develop a passion, find yourself, a reason to get up
- Find your place in the world
- Be able to go through failure. Make the best of what you have

### **Table 7:**

- Faithful self-actualization
- Foundation for future learning
- Solid knowledge of history

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### **Table 8:**

- Leaving the house
- The point where you're passionate about your work
- Well-rounded individual

### **Table 9:**

- Self-sufficiency
- Happiness is facilitated
- Responsibility and accountability are taught
- critical thinking in the big world
- Confidence
- Tradesman (ability to do a practical craft)
- Problem solving

***Question #3: As a table group, create a list of the mindsets and dispositions that Oakwood Schools students need to be successful in school and in life. An asterisk has been marked for the Top 6.***

**Group Summary - Based on the mindsets and dispositions marked with an asterisk (\$last\$) as most important by the table groups, the Top 6 essential qualities for Oakwood Schools students to succeed in school and life are:**

- 1. Responsibility/Accountability: (Tables 3, 9) The willingness to own one's actions, duties, and commitments.**
- 2. Confidence: (Tables 2, 9) Self-belief in one's abilities to face challenges and pursue goals.**
- 3. Resilience/Grit: (Tables 2, 5) The mental toughness to persevere through failure, learn from setbacks, and keep moving forward.**
- 4. Open-mindedness/Respectful: (Tables 1, 6, 7) The disposition to consider different perspectives, listen actively, and treat others with civility.**
- 5. Curiosity: (Tables 1, 9) The desire to learn, ask good questions, and explore new ideas.**
- 6. Community-Minded/Empathy: (Tables 2, 7) A focus on the common good, understanding others' feelings, and contributing positively to the world.**

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### Table 1:

- \*Curiosity
- \*Open-minded, civil, disposition
- \*Learn all sides
- Media literacy
- \*Active listener
- \*Ask good questions
- Not being afraid
- Being aware of different perspectives
- Being able to break rules

### Table 2:

- Empathy
- \*confidence
- \*grit
- Determination
- \*independence
- \*resilience
- \*compassion
- Passion
- Global compassion
- Discipline
- Observative
- Appreciative
- \*community-minded
- Thoughtful
- Curiosity

### Table 3:

- Confidence
- Maturity
- \*Motivation
- \*Responsibility
- \*Respectful
- Participant
- Honest
- \*Fairness
- Caring attitude

- \*Involved
- Patience
- Happiness
- Sensitivity
- \*Humility
- Curiosity

### Table 4:

- \*Commit to being a lifelong learner
- \*Purpose
- \*Learn to be a leader
- Goal-setting
- Self-belief
- Rotary 4-Way Test
- \*having a vision, mission, and values
- Golden Rule
- Appreciate what everyone brings
- \*recognizing value of others

### Table 5:

- \*hard work pays off
- \*resiliency
- \*perseverance
- \*mindfulness
- \*assertive
- \*pride
- \*fail forward
- Kindness works
- Respect for others
- Tough-minded
- nothing comes easy
- Grass is always greener
- Curiosity
- Honesty
- Confidence
- Find the joy

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### Table 6:

- \*Having fun and getting things done
- Practice for real life
- Being satisfied
- \*community
- Learn to be a decision maker
- Being thankful and grateful
- Being aware of your environment
- \*having an open mind
- \*Sense of a duty
- \*Decision maker
- \*Accept who you are

### Table 7:

- \*heart for service
- \*Openness - promotes curiosity
- \*honesty
- \*respectful
- Financial literacy
- \*building healthy bodies, minds, and spirits
- \*Be kind
- \*focus on common good
- Create a surplus of good, be a contributor

### Table 8:

- Organized
- Focused
- \*communication
- \*creativity
- \*friendly
- \*disciplined
- Enjoying the results
- \*think critically
- \*Problem solving and open to new ideas
- Open-minded
- Able to delegate
- Humorous

### Table 9:

- \*being accountable and responsible
- \*confidence
- \*competence
- \*Curiosity
- \*inclusivity
- \*empathy
- Wisdom
- Being able to see different perspectives
- Creativity
- Open-minded / welcoming
- Self-awareness
- Unity with individuality
- Success
- Collaboration
- Taking risks by moving forward