SUTTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Parent University

Where Excellence is Deliberate

Sutton Middle School | Fall 2026

Gemini Notebook



DR. DOMINIQUE R. MERRIWEATHER
Principal



MS. AMANDA FIELDER
School Business Manager



MS. FANNIE PHILLIPS-BENNETT
Program Administrator



DR. SHEVAN HOWARD
6th Grade
Assistant Principal



MR. LOUIS METCALF
7th Grade
Assistant Principal



MR. ANTOINE EDWARDS
8th Grade
Assistant Principal



MR. ISRAEL VANCE
Special Populations
Assistant Principal



MS. FELICIA HENDERSON
Curriculum & Instruction
Assistant Principal

NotebookLM

Meet your Instructional Coaches



Mr. Brett Flater

IB Instructional Coach



Mrs. Charneka Jones

Language & Literature Instructional Coach



Mr. Lindell Coker

Math Instructional Coach



Ms. Iris Medina

ESOL/DLI Instructional Coach

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MEET YOUR COUNSELORS

6th Grade Counselor



MS. MCKENZIE JOHNSON

7th Grade Counselor



MS. TRISHA SLAUGHTER

8th Grade Counselor



MS. CHANNELLE JOSEPH

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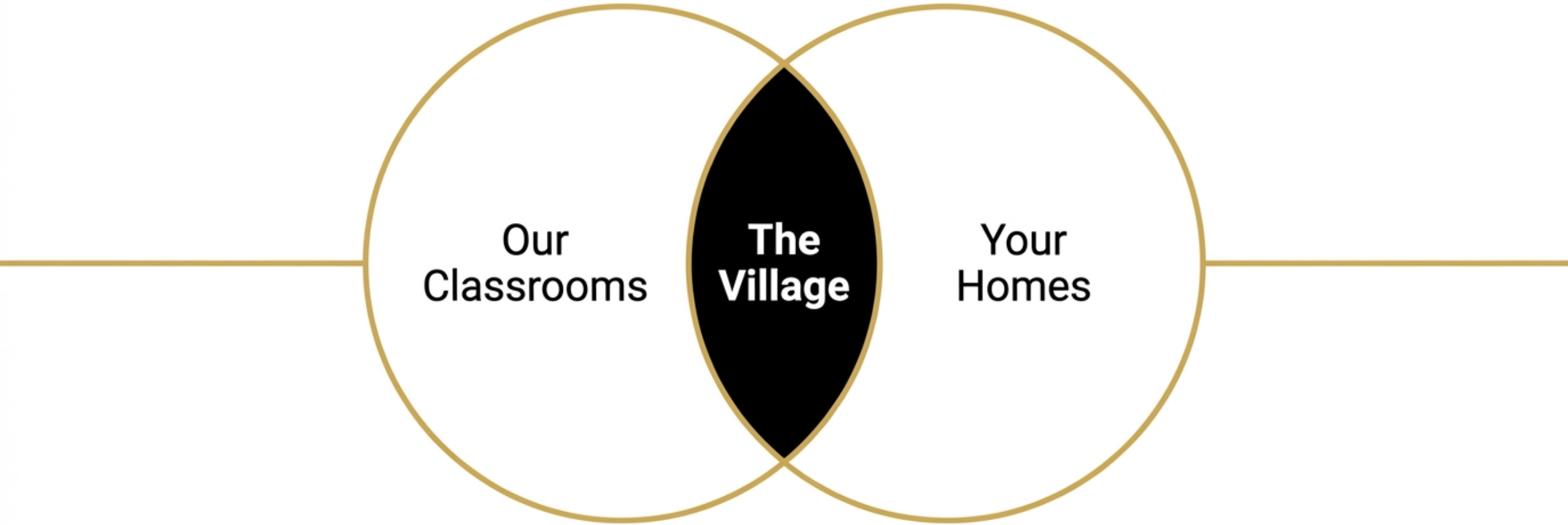
New This Week:

- Locker Distribution
- Chromebook distribution
- Planners
- Textbooks given to students

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It Takes a Village, and You Are Our Village

Excellence cannot exist in a silo. True student success requires a seamless, deliberate partnership between the school environment and the home front.



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Excellence in Action: Celebrating Our Strong Start



IB World School

Delivering a globally-minded, rigorous curriculum designed to push critical thinking.



GMAS Triumphs

Sustained academic growth that consistently outperforms district averages.



A Stellar Opening

A smooth, energetic, and highly successful first week of school, made possible by community support.

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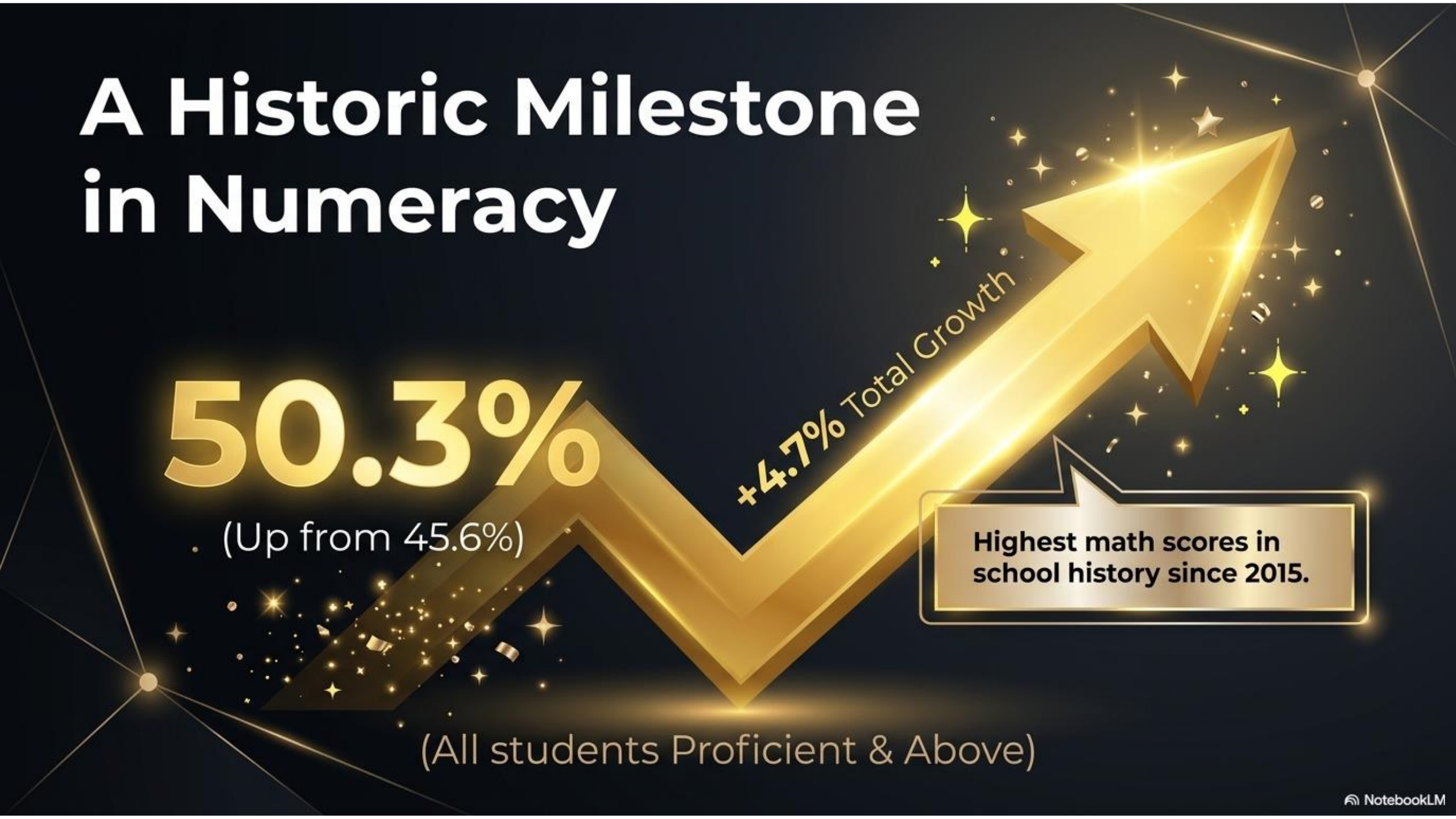


The results are in!

Drum roll, please...

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A Historic Milestone in Numeracy



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Exceeding the Bar: Whole Child & Discipline

Target Goal:

Decrease suspension rate from .36% to .31%.



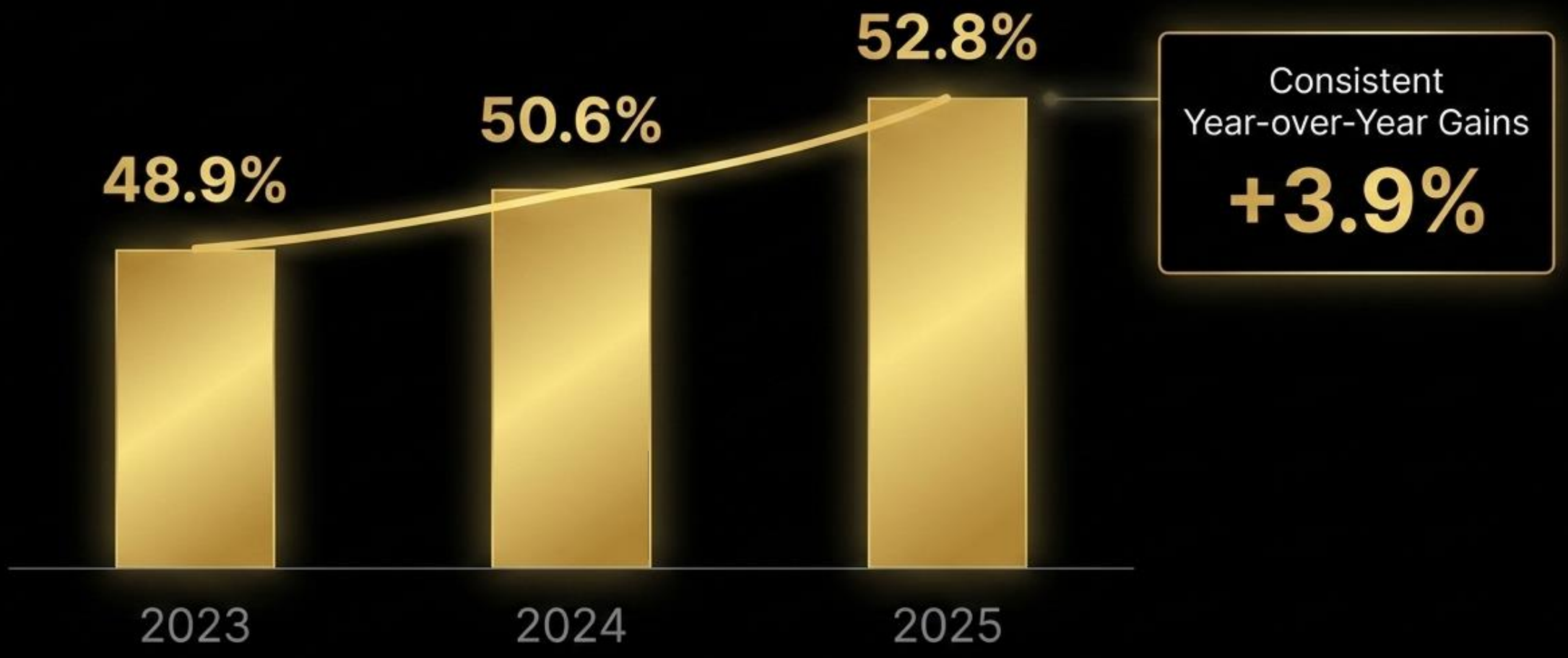
Actual Result:

.24%

We **shattered the target** with a total **.12% drop** in the school suspension rate.

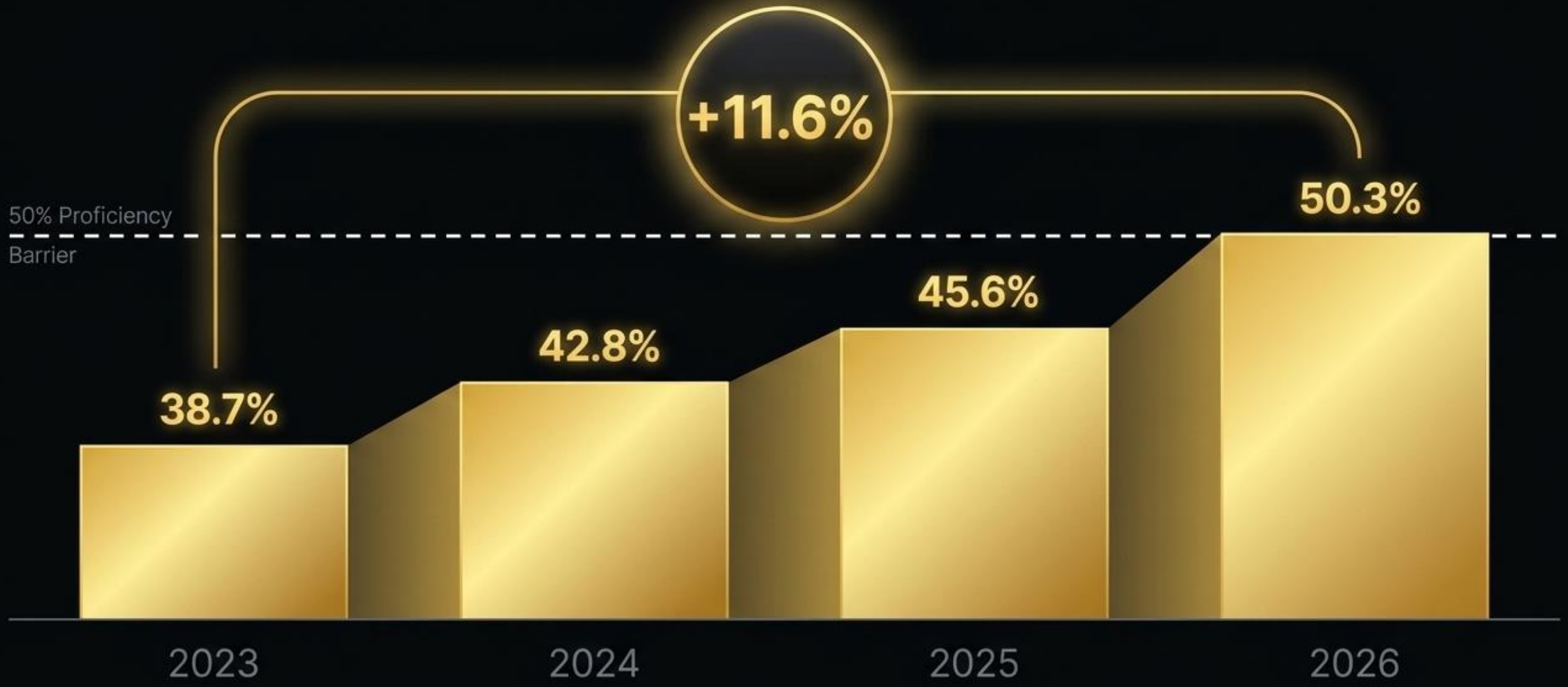
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ELA provides a steady, uninterrupted foundation of literacy



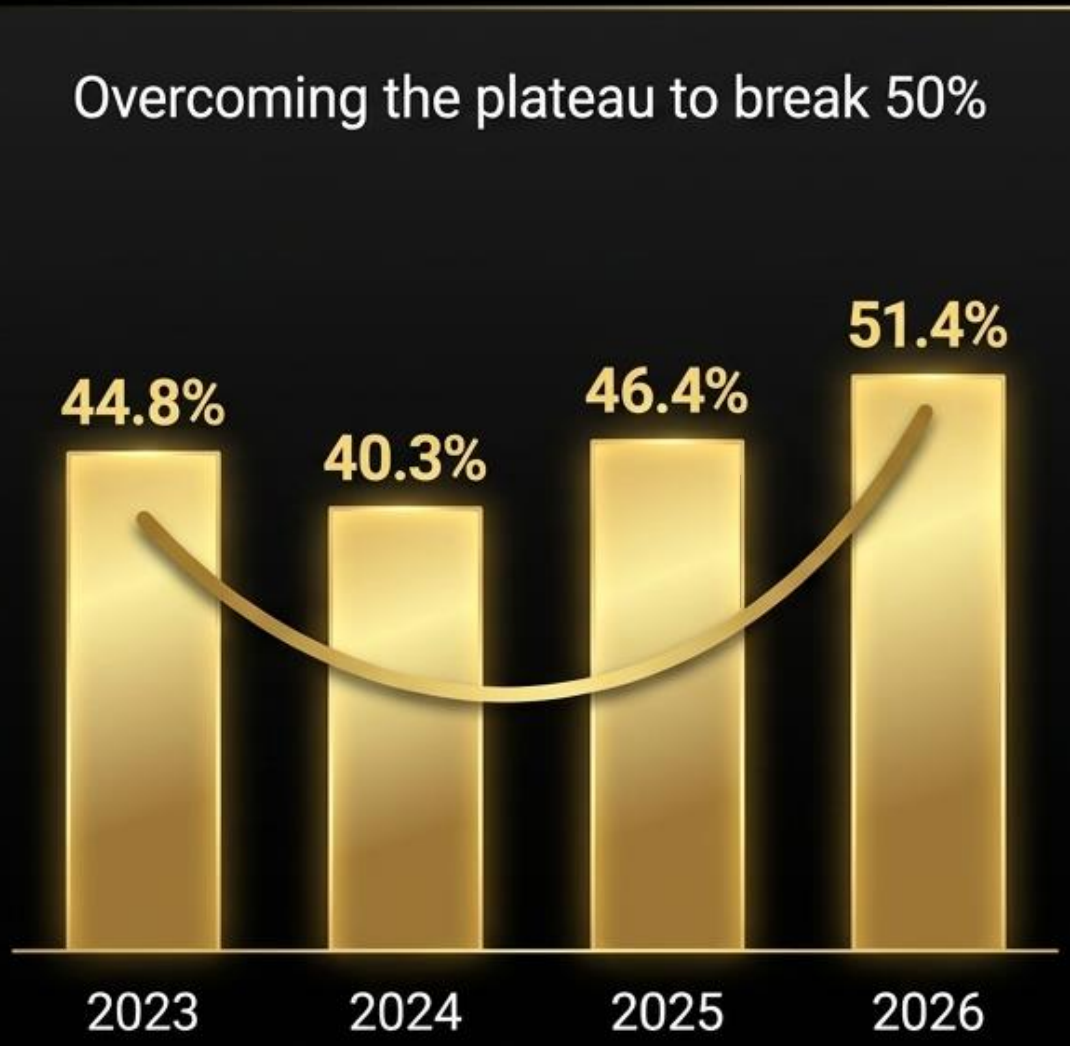
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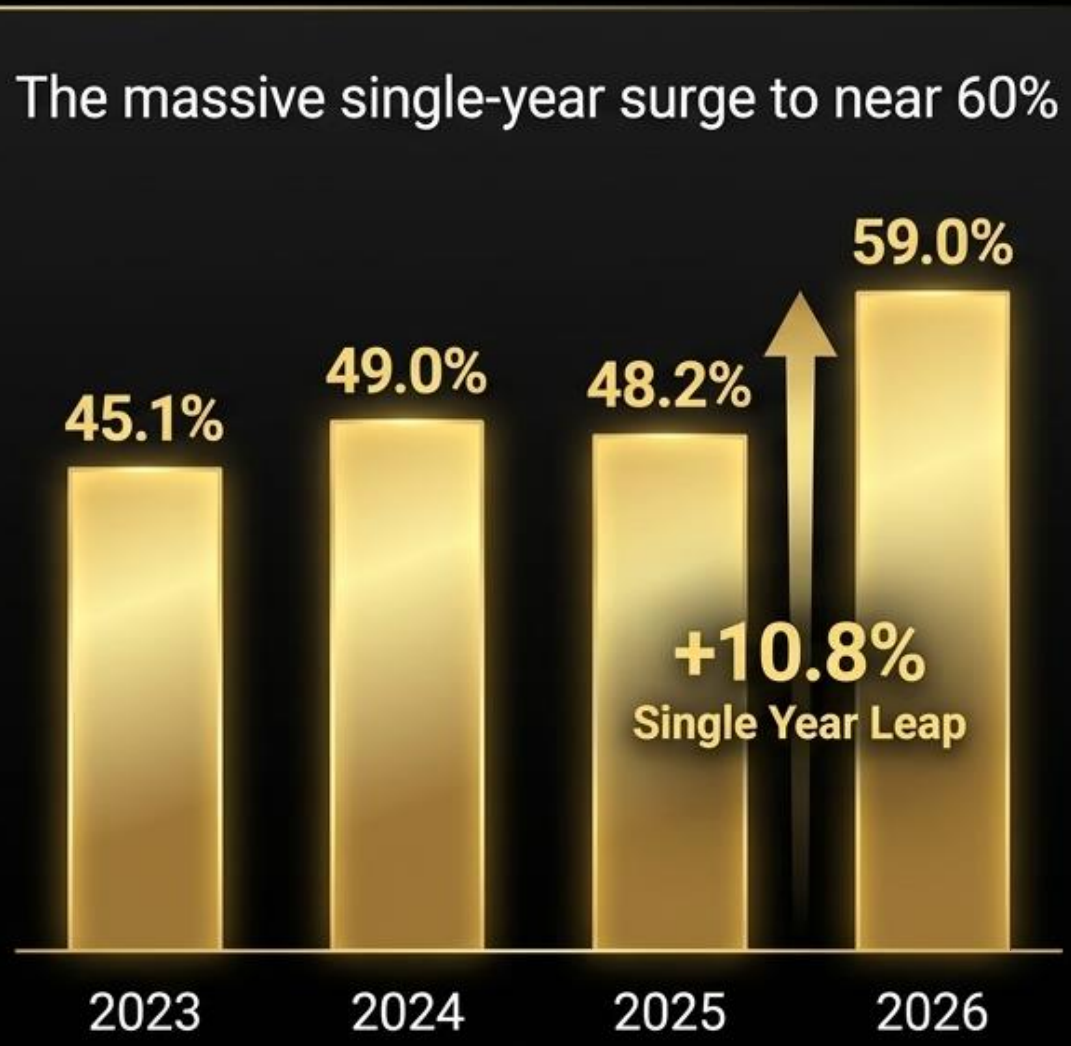
Mathematics is an accelerating engine of compound growth



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Resilience fuels breakout surges in Science and Social Studies





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CIP Action Plan: The Personalized Learning Ecosystem



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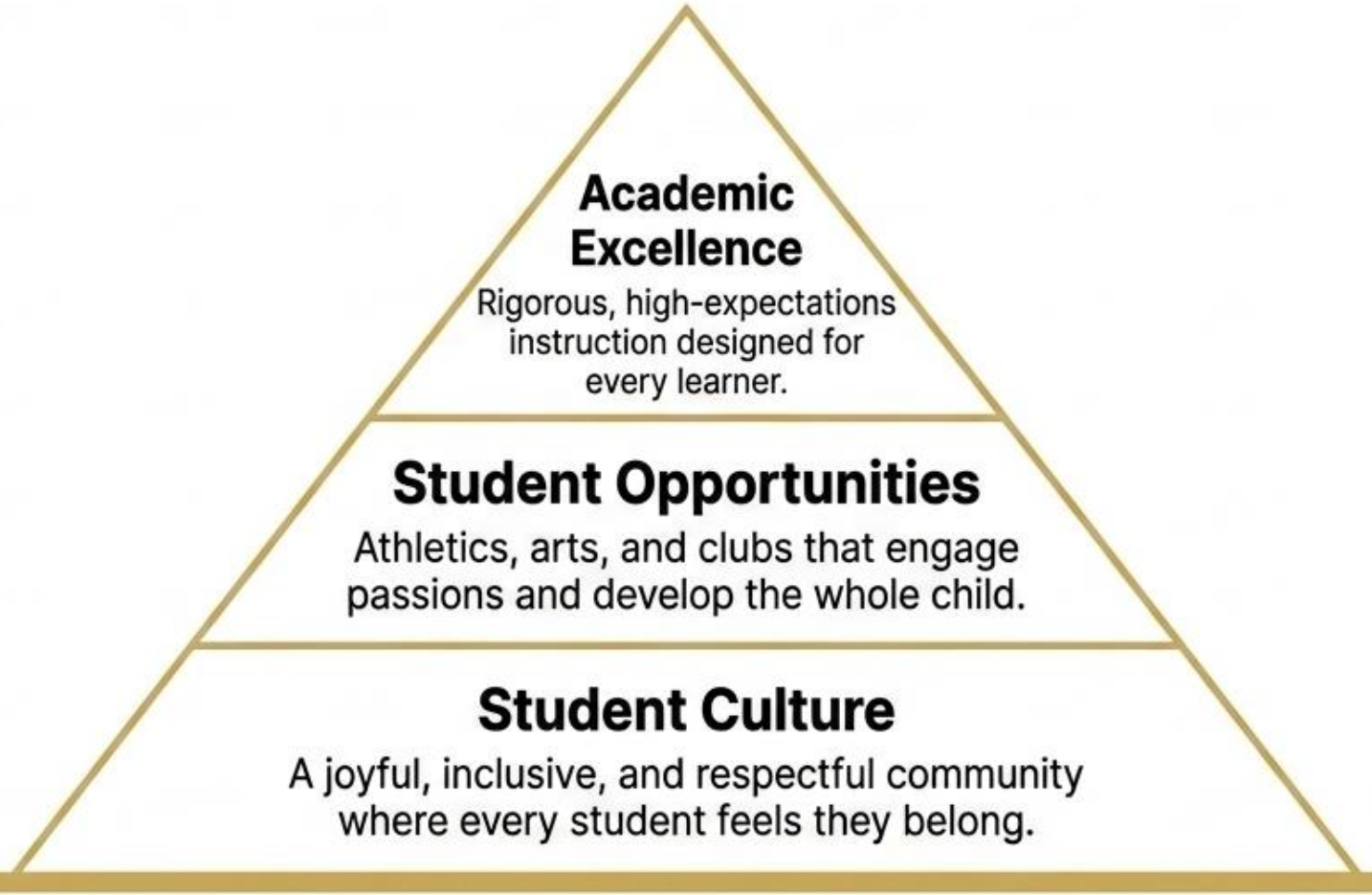
Our Core Vision

Where Excellence is Deliberate.

We do not hope for success. We do not rely on luck. The growth you just saw is the result of intentional design. Every lesson, every boundary, and every expectation is a deliberate choice crafted to forge successful young adults.

Gemini Notebook

How We Engineer Excellence



Academic excellence is the peak, but it cannot stand without the deep foundation of strong culture and diverse opportunities.

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Our Promise to Your Family



A Safe, Nurturing Environment

We prioritize physical safety, emotional wellbeing, and ensuring a space where every single child knows they belong.



High-Quality Instruction

Passionate educators delivering engaging, rigorous, and personalized IB learning experiences every day.

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Sutton Middle School



The Climate Star Report

A Celebration of Our Historic Academic Year

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Overall Climate Star Rating



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The Highest in School History.

This milestone is a direct reflection of the culture built in our classrooms, our hallways, and our community every single day.

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The Anatomy of a Star Rating

Four independent domains are converted into domain star ratings. These four ratings are averaged together to get our final score. Each piece matters equally.



25% Attendance

25% Safe & Substance-Free (SSF)

25% Discipline

25% Survey

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Domain Breakdown: The Environment (50%)

Attendance (25%)

- **Metric:** Percentage of students not chronically absent.
- **Data Utilized:** School Level Student Attendance records.

Safe & Substance-Free (25%)

- **Metric:** Tracking of more serious offenses.
- **Calculation (8.3% each):** Number of Drug-Related Incidents, Bullying/Harassment Incidents, and Violent Incidents (per 100 students).
- **Data Utilized:** Student Record SSF Discipline Incidents (excluding PreK).

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Domain Breakdown: The Culture (50%)

Discipline (25%)

- **Metric:** Tracking of less serious offenses.
- **Calculation:** 25% weighted average of discipline actions for non-safe and substance-free incidents (e.g., general disruptions).
- **Data Utilized:** Student Record Non-SSF Discipline Incidents (excluding PreK).

Survey (25%)

- **Metric:** Community feedback and climate surveys.
- **Calculation (8.3% each):** Student Survey, Teacher & Staff Surveys, Family Survey.
- **Data Utilized:** Georgia School Climate Surveys participation and results.

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The Sutton Scorecard

Attendance	Safe & Substance-Free	Survey	Discipline
4	3	4	5

(4 + 3 + 4 + 5) Averaged = Overall Climate Star Rating: 4

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A Perfect Score in Discipline

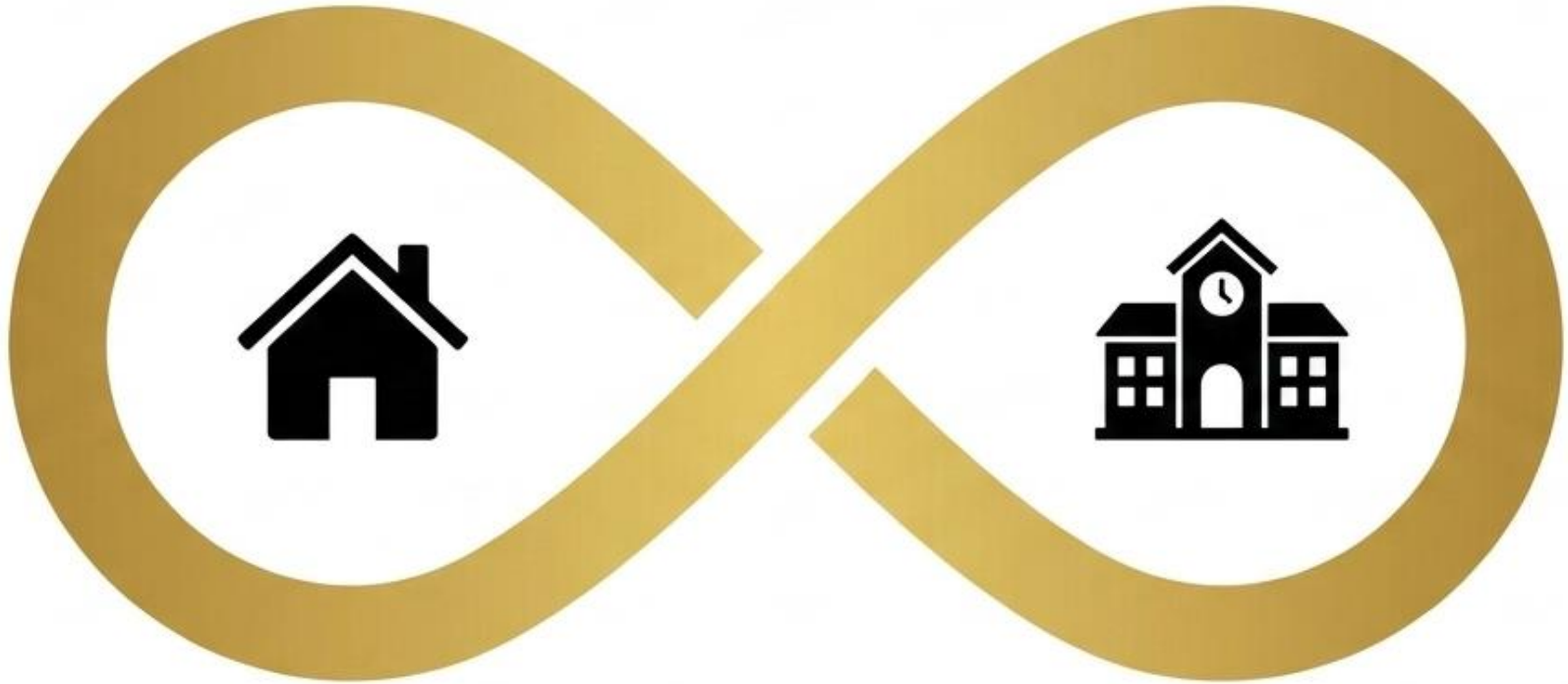


A “5” in Discipline (less serious offenses/disruptions) is exceptionally difficult to achieve. It does not happen by accident.

This perfect score is a direct result of your relentless work in classroom management, relationship building, and daily student support. Thank you for making history at Sutton.

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We Cannot Fix What We Do Not Know



If something isn't right—whether academically frustrating or socially isolating—we need to hear from you. Your insights from home are our most valuable early warning system.

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The Non-Negotiable: Cellphone-Free Classrooms

Staff Expectations

- ✓ No earbuds worn during the day.
- ✓ Parents should not be called during instructional time.
- ✓ Save social apps (TikTok, IG, texts) for after work.
- ✓ Adhere to this policy daily.

Student Expectations

- ⚠ No earbuds worn during the day.
- ⚠ Smartwatches not worn (unless medical AND admin-approved).
- ⚠ Phones MUST be in lockers, inside backpacks.
- ⚠ Adhere to this policy daily.

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Comprehensive Cellphone Policy Parameters

Possession is a privilege with parent consent; disruption leads to strict disciplinary action.

Usage Restrictions: Forbidden for ALL students at ALL times during the school day (lunch, class changes, study halls).

Storage & Retrieval: Must be in lockers upon arrival. Cannot be retrieved during the day.

Permitted Use: Only allowed during after-school activities, clubs, or sports.

Emergencies: Pass required to grade level office for emergency calls.

Health: Nurse's office phone used for health calls.

Liability: APS/SMS assumes NO liability for theft, loss, or damage of confiscated devices.

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Your Role in the Partnership

1

Consistent Attendance.

Every single day matters. Missing a day means missing the village and falling behind the collaborative learning process.

2

Dedicated Home Support.

Establishing quiet study spaces, asking specific questions about their day, and demonstrating that education is a family priority.

3

Social Media Partnership.

The hardest but most vital step. Monitoring devices, actively teaching digital citizenship, and keeping peer drama offline.

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Lines of Communication: How to Reach Us



Step 1: The Teacher.
(Start here for grades, classroom behavior, specific assignments.)



Step 2: The Counselor.
(Proceed here for overarching academic struggles, social issues, or emotional support.)



Step 3: School Administration. (For unresolved systemic issues or broader school policies.)

Check the Parent Portal and our Weekly Newsletter first—first—90% of your answers are already waiting there!

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The Middle School Shift: Coaching Independence



The Project Manager.
You hold their hand. You pack the bag, check the homework, and manage the schedule directly.

The Coach.
You stand beside them. You guide from the sidelines, ask questions, and help them strategize, but they must run the plays.

The Consultant.
You stand behind them. They run their own project; they come to you for advice when they hit a roadblock.

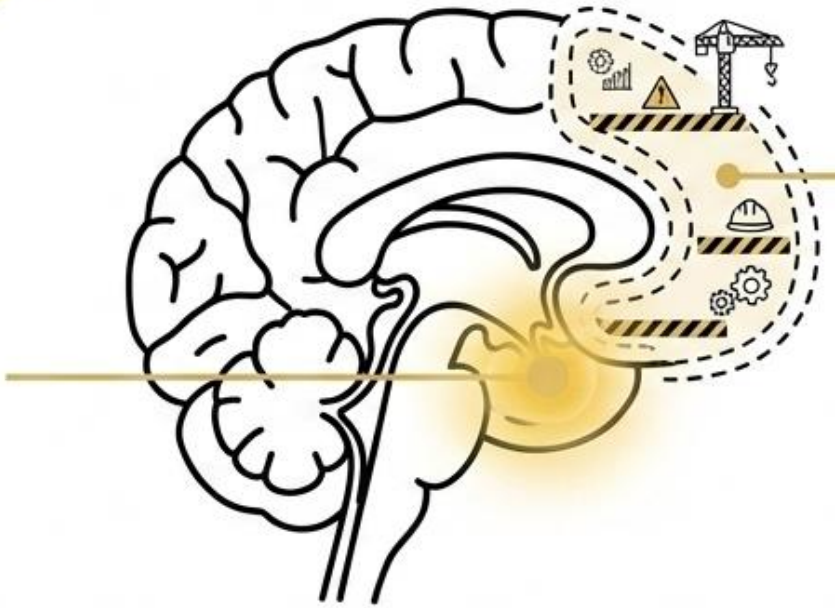
Middle school is the critical training ground to transition your role from Manager to Consultant.

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The Biology Behind Middle School Behavior

The Amygdala (Emotion)

Fully Active. Feelings are big, loud, and immediate.



Prefrontal Cortex (Logic)

Under Construction. Planning, impulse control, and long-term forethought are physically still developing.

They aren't trying to drive you crazy; their emotion centers are fully online while their logic centers are still being built.

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Reframing Inevitable Mistakes

The Instinct	The Coach's View
Panic over forgotten homework.	A low-stakes opportunity to build a permanent organizational system.
Intervene in friendship drama to protect them.	A safe environment to practice conflict resolution, boundaries, and empathy.
Fixate on a low test grade as a failure.	A diagnostic moment to evaluate study habits and teach self-advocacy with teachers.

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Navigating Our Communication Ecosystem

(The Big Picture)

Sutton Source

Use this for school-wide alerts, major administrative announcements, and direct messaging.

(The Classroom)

Google Classroom

Use this to see daily assignments, course materials, and specific syllabi.

(The Official Record)

Infinite Campus

Use this to check official finalized grades, attendance records, and transcripts.

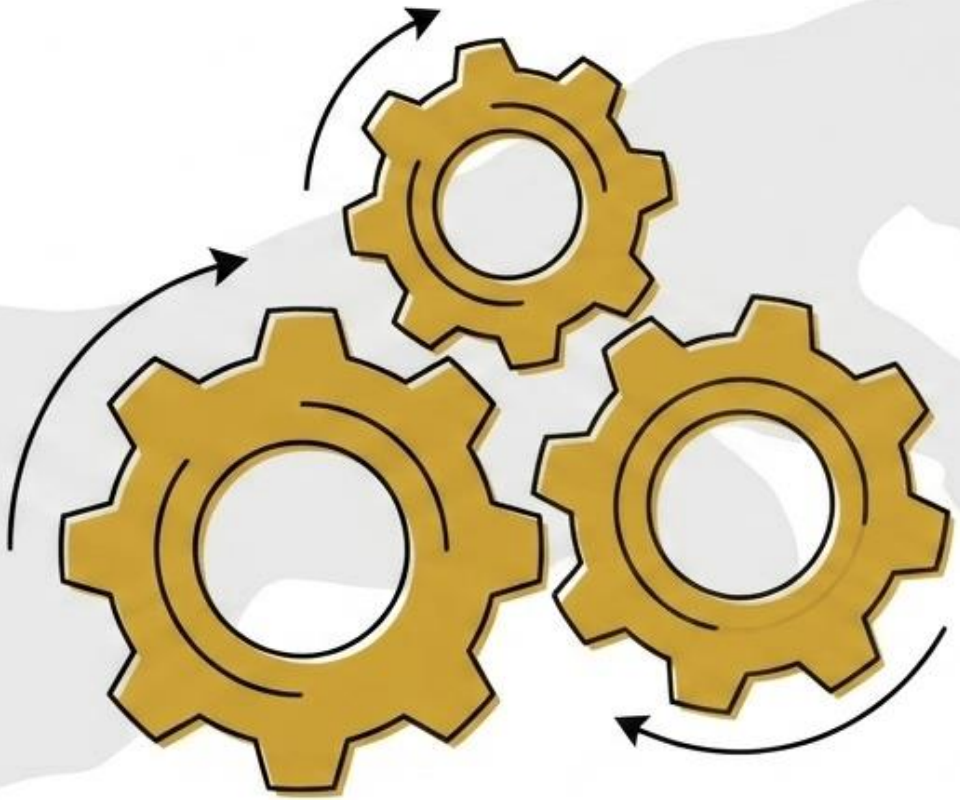
(The Heartbeat)

Sutton Source

Use this to celebrate community success, preview upcoming events, and get PTO news.

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Get Involved: Join the Pride



PTA.

Fund critical resources, host community events, and build school spirit.

GO Team.

Shape long-term school strategy, influence the budget, and guide our academic direction.

Volunteering.

Impact the day-to-day by chaperoning, assisting in the media center, and supporting our athletics programs.

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The Road Ahead: Mapping Your Year

MAP Testing

Use this assessment to gauge academic progress and identify areas for growth.

Building Teacher Relationships

Foster ongoing communication to support student learning and create a strong partnership.

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SUTTON MIDDLE SCHOOL
LEAP INTO AN INCREDIBLE YEAR.
LET'S GO MAKE THIS ANOTHER RECORD BREAKING YEAR

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Questions & Conversations

What is on your mind?

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SUTTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Our Deliberate Begins Today

Thank you for trusting us with your children, for stepping into the Coach's role, and for being the most vital part of our village.
Let's make this an incredible year together.

The next Parent University is on August 17th:
Meet Your 6th Grade Level Admin Team

Follow the journey: @SuttonCougars

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