

Agency

Session One



Please add your school name before your name

Ex: EGC linda

What allows our schools to be joyful places where we want to be?



Agency

the ability to take action and/or choose what action to take.



Belonging

being accepted as you truly are and as an equal participant in how things are created.



Connectedness

engaging in meaningful activities with supportive adults & peers where you are seen, heard, and valued.

Recap of our Community Timeframe

Form a team consisting of students, teachers, leaders, family and other community members.

Designate a contact person.

Commit to engage in this and two additional virtual design sessions

Share your experience with other schools involved in this design opportunity in February 2024.

Selected teams will travel to Washington, DC in May 2024 for an all-day session with other design teams and congressional, US Department of Education and White House Domestic Policy Council staff.



Who is in this session?

Each school team will have 7 minutes in a breakout room to decide what they would like to share about why they are joining this design team opportunity?

When we return to the main room, we would like to hear your reason and for each of you to introduce yourselves.

**The dance of life is
spontaneous, self-sustaining,
and self-creating.”**

~ Paul Davies



Agency

The ability to take action or to choose what action to take

To identify valued goals and desired outcomes and to pursue those goals and outcomes proactively, purposely and effectively.

A sense of our own power to make a difference.

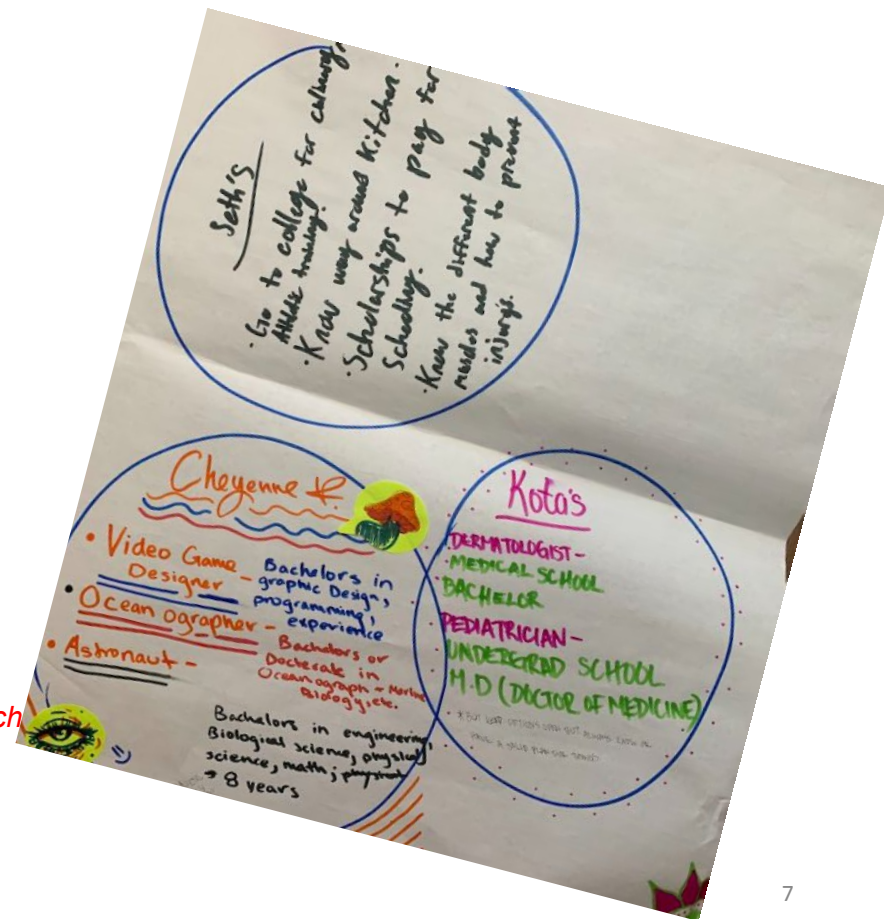
Agency is about acting rather than being acted upon - fully participating as an equal and contributing member of a community that shares a common goal or purpose.



Agency-Might Look Like in Schools

- ❖ Choice-based learning
- ❖ Student-led projects
- ❖ Personalized learning plans
- ❖ Reflection and self-assessment
- ❖ Student voice and input
- ❖ Authentic, real-world experiences
- ❖ Autonomy
- ❖ Co-generative Dialogues
- ❖ Flexible schedules
- ❖ Student led professional learning

Shifting from a teacher-centered model to a student-centered approach





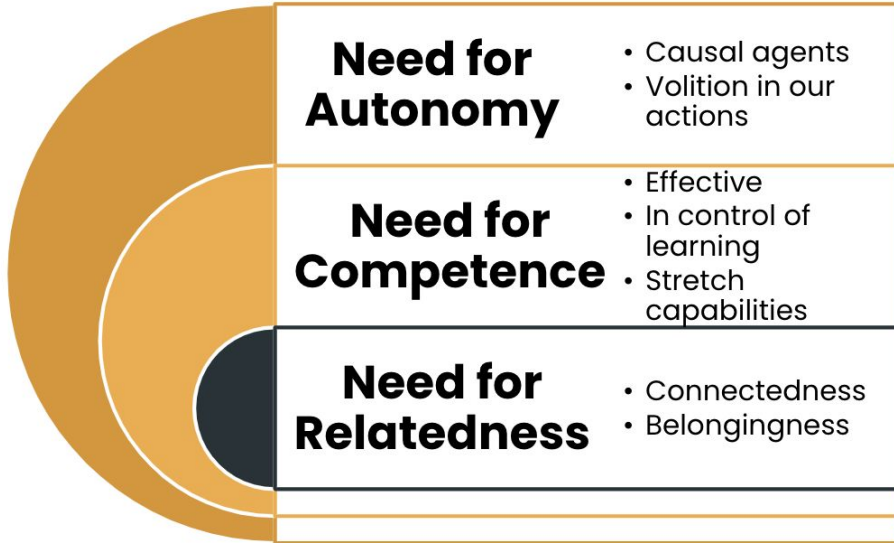
Guiding inquiry where are there spaces within our school community where agency happens organically?



**Within our
school
community,
where do we find
spaces that shut
down agency?**

Self-Determination Theory (SDT)

(Wentzel & Miele, 2016)



What types of offerings would be of interest and bring joy?

What kind of loose structures might support competence?

Where might we create intentional space for connectedness and belonging for all in our community?

Psychological growth occurs when the social context supports these three needs

Spaces and Places that invite us to Practice Capacities that Enhance Agency



Communication

Collaboration

Adaptability

Resilience

Listening

Empathy

Presence

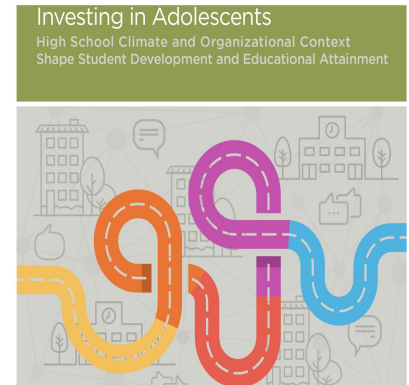
Investing in Adolescents (April 2023)

Chicago Consortium Research

Cultivate an environment in which:

- Students and teachers have positive and productive interactions
- Students develop peer connections and have a sense of belonging
- Students' orientation toward hard work, effort & engagement is nurtured

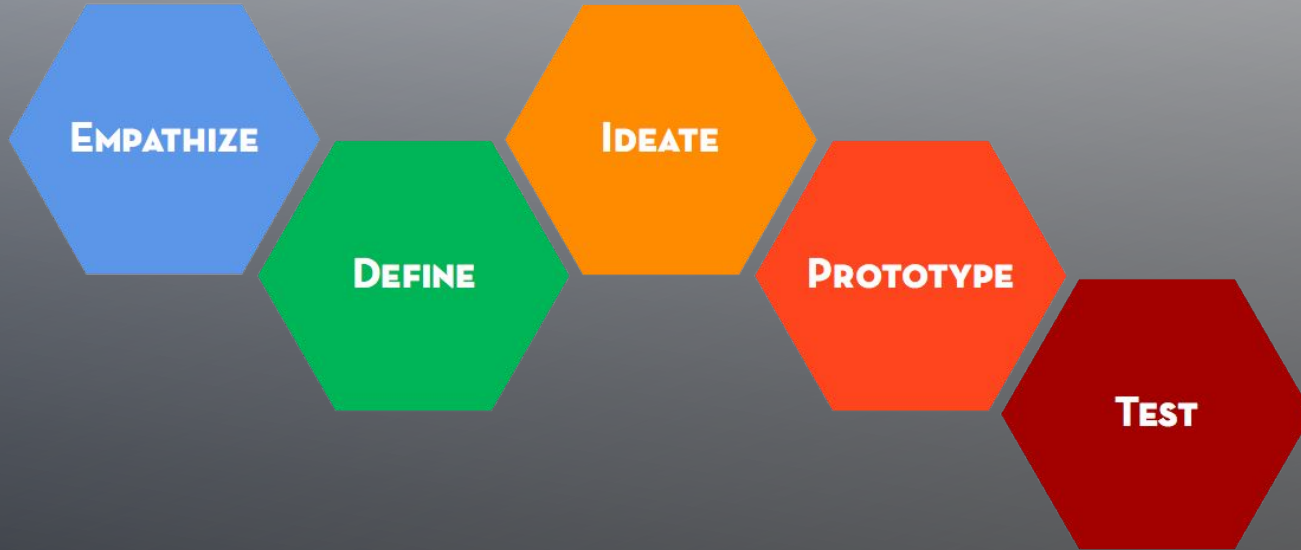
Student and teacher voices are reliable, valuable, and valid guides for school improvement



Within our school environment, what might allow us to experience agency?



Human Centered Approach to Design Methods





EMPATHIZE

The image features a horizontal sequence of five hexagons. The first hexagon on the left is a vibrant blue and contains the word "EMPATHIZE" in white, bold, uppercase letters. The remaining four hexagons are a light gray color and are empty. The hexagons are arranged in a slightly overlapping, staggered pattern. The background is a dark blue gradient, and a wavy yellow shape is visible at the bottom of the frame.

GAINING EMPATHY

Empathize is the foundation of human-centered design.

To build empathy, we:

- **Observe**—view people and their behaviors in the context of their lives.
- **Engage**—Interact with and interview people through both scheduled and short encounters.
- **Immerse**—Wear their shoes. Experience what they experience for a mile or two.

Exploring how students experience our campus





**Exploring
how adults
experience
our campus**



**Exploring
how our
community
sees our
campus**

Empathize: **how?**

without judgment

**with a beginner's
eyes**

with curiosity

optimistically

respectfully



immerse

observe

engage

- **Observe or Immerse** yourself in what your another is doing?
- **How he/she/they are doing it?**
- **What prompted the behavior ?**

What is this person (or persons) doing?
 Notice what is happening both with the person and the context he/she is functioning within.

How are they doing it?
 pretend you are describing the picture to someone not looking at it.

Why are they doing it this way?
 take a guess. Start to form a story. then ask.



FENWICK HIGH SCHOOL
FUTURE FRIAR SHADOW DAYS
(OPEN TO FRIAR ONLY)
 8:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.
 WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY
 BEGINNING FEBRUARY 16, 2022

REGISTER ONLINE AT:
FENWICKFRIARS.COM/ADMISSIONS/VISIT-US/FUTURE-FRIAR-DAY

LUNCH IS PROVIDED.

QUESTIONS?
 CONTACT MRS. CATHY KASZUBA IN THE OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS AT (708) 386-0127 EXT. 109.

WHAT TO WEAR:		
BOYS:		GIRLS:
- Dress Pants		- Dress Pants
- Collared Shirt (Polo style shirts are acceptable)		- Collared Shirt
- Dress Shoes		- Skirt (no shorter than 2 inches above the knee)
- Tie		- Dress (no shorter than 2 inches above the knee)
- Belt		- Dress Shoes

No jeans, gym shoes, t-shirts, sweatpants, sweatshirts, mid-drift tops, flip flops, or crocs allowed.

Empathize: how?

immerse

observe

engage



Empathize: **how** – engage Interviews

1. seek stories
2. talk about feelings
3. ask “why”



“Tell me about the last time you...”

“What was the best...” “What was the worst...”

“And why is that?” “Can you tell me more about that?”

When do you feel you are helping others feel a sense of their agency?

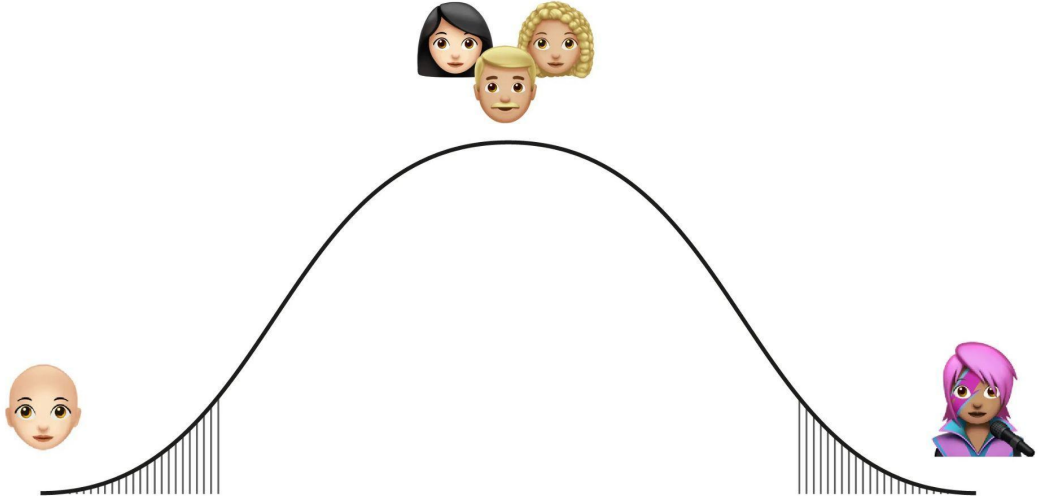
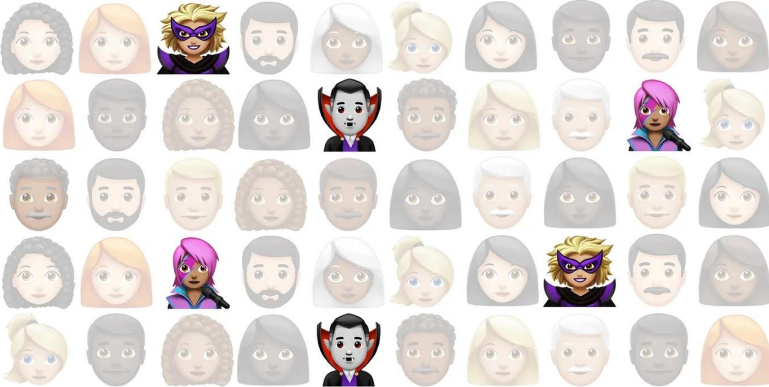


Empathize: how?

1. seek stories
2. talk about feelings
3. ask “why”
- 4. capture your findings**



A Note About Multiple Perspectives and Extremes



Team Design Time in Breakouts

Thoughts about what we are hearing?

What shadowing experiences might our team want to set up?

Are there areas or events we might want to observe or pay attention to?

Each team member will conduct three interviews.

How will we capture what we see and hear?

What questions might we all want to share?



Next Steps

You and your team will engage in your **observe, engage and immerse** activities including empathy interviews.

.Session two

November 14 @ 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Agency, session 2

Register Here:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUucuGgqzltHNc0CKsB6wohIfkDff3N4lws>



1

One word to describe how you are feeling about today's engagement.





Thank You!

Kim Nguyen

WE BUILD IT TOGETHER



Trust

Your

Journey

**Onward
& Be Well!**

Thanks!

Do you have any questions?

Please keep this slide for attribution

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Agency Resources

- <https://learningforward.org/journal/improving-together/6-principles-to-foster-voice-and-belonging/>
- <https://xqsuperschool.org/rethinktogether/5-resources-for-youth-voice-and-choice/>
- <https://www.edutopia.org/article/importance-student-choice-across-all-grade-levels/>
- <https://aaalab.stanford.edu/papers/ChoiceSchwartzArenaAUGUST232009.pdf>
- [https://www.oecd.org/education/2030-project/teaching-and-learning/learning/student-agency/Student Agency for 2030 concept note.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/education/2030-project/teaching-and-learning/learning/student-agency/Student%20Agency%20for%202030%20concept%20note.pdf)
- <https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/getschooledky/episodes/The-Uncertainty-of-Post-High-School-Plans-How-Has-My-K-12-Education-Prepared-me-for-Life-After-High-School-elvr9bd/a-a9eb0vc>