

The Valley Vibe

Encouraging Reading in Middle School Is More Important Than Ever!!!

The importance of reading for children cannot be underestimated. Reading for pleasure can benefit a child's education, social and cognitive development, their wellbeing, and their mental health. Because of the learning potential, the effects of reading on child development are vast and multiple studies have highlighted its benefits. As such, teachers and parents are in a great position to ensure reading is a key part of children's daily routine. We'll give you some more information as to why this is so important and provide some tips that you can use both in and out of the classroom.

Have a resistant reader?

Getting middle schoolers to read can be a challenge. Some ways to help include:

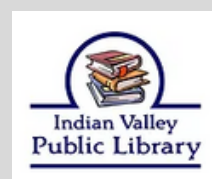
- Help your student find a topic that interests them. Look at their favorite shows, hobbies, sports, or video games. A book about something they enjoy will make a book that much more appealing.
- Have you seen the movie/show/anime? Try the book!
- Look at the length. A 300+ page book may seem daunting and put your child off. Many students have packed schedules and a lengthy book might not get read because of having to stop and start.
- Don't make them finish every book they start! This may seem counterintuitive but forcing kids to read a book they are not interested in will make them resentful and resistant.
- Look at alternate formats!
 - Graphic novels - These are not "just comic books". Graphic novels are a standalone format and have the same plot development as a traditional novel. Many novels - including the classics - have a graphic novel version making them more appealing and approachable.
 - Audio Books - It is rare that middle schoolers don't have their earbuds in! Why not have them listen to a book? Audio books are also a great option for students who may struggle with reading.
 - eBooks - IVMS is part of a consortium, Mackin Via, which offers students an opportunity to check out audio and ebooks. Mackin Via can be found on Classlink.
- Social Media - if your child has social media, help them navigate BookTok (TikTok) or Bookstagram (Instagram). These channels allow students to read and then connect with others about what they've read.

How To Get An Indian Valley Public Library Card

1)At the library- Parent/guardian can complete an application at the library. Please provide proof of address. You will be issued a card at that time.

2)IVPL Online Library Card Application. This application is open to students of the SASD ages 17 and under who reside in one of the 5 municipalities: Franconia, Lower Salford, Salford, Souderton and Telford. You must have a valid non-school email address to apply online. Once the application is completed and registered, we will send you a temporary library card number by email. Your card number will remain active for 6 months. During that time, please visit the library accompanied by a parent or guardian who can show proof of address to pick up your library card. <https://bit.ly/33DG4Jy>.

Check out their variety of audiobooks:
<https://www.ivpl.org/ebooks-eaudiobooks>



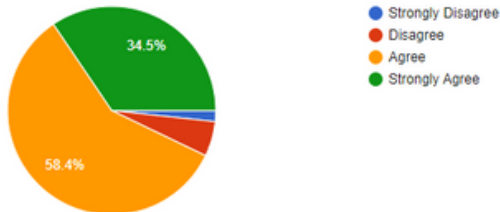
Soaring With WINGS

WINGS STUDENT CHECK-IN

We did a mid-year check in with students to see if our objectives for our school-wide positive behavior plan were being met. Check out the results below.

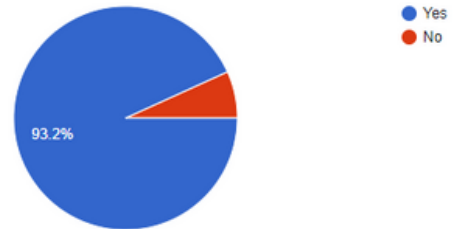
I understand what the WINGS Program is at Indian Valley.

589 responses



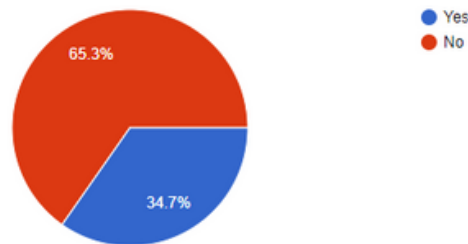
I have earned a WINGS ticket at school.

590 responses



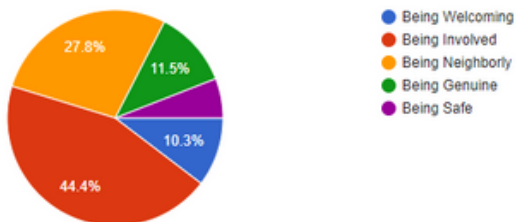
I have earned a Golden WINGS ticket at school.

590 responses



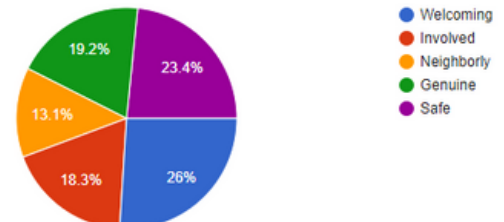
Which characteristic am I MOST rewarded for at school?

590 responses



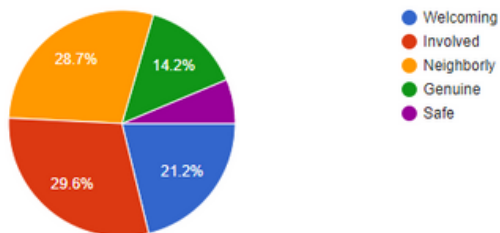
The WINGS quality I demonstrate the LEAST is...

573 responses



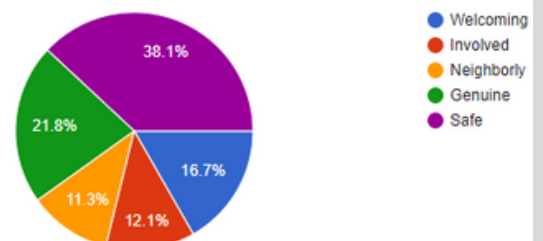
The WINGS quality I see my peers demonstrate the MOST is...

585 responses



The WINGS quality I see my peers demonstrate the LEAST is...

586 responses



KEEP READING TO SEE OUR PLAN WITH THE DATA

WHAT NOW??

There were many things to celebrate when we analyzed the data:

- Our students understand the WINGS program
- Our students are receiving WINGS tickets for their behaviors
- With this being our first year passing out Golden WINGS tickets (for our targeting behavior of the month), over half of our students have received one

What we found the most interesting was that students themselves identified the behavior they demonstrate the LEAST is being safe. They also identified being safe as the behavior their peers demonstrate the LEAST. When looking at our matrix being safe is defined as:

S SAFE	Stay in a seat	Walk in the hallways	Volunteer and participate	Report unsafe behavior and bullying behavior to an adult
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We identified the two areas where unsafe behaviors were occurring the most were:

HALLWAYS AND CAFETERIA

We are asking team teachers to create schedules amongst themselves where they can be more visible in the hallways, with the specific job to hand out WINGS tickets for those demonstrating safe behavior. We're also working on getting some special guests to help with this as well!

WE NEED YOUR HELP

In the month of March we would like parent volunteers to join us during student lunches to hand out WINGS tickets for those students they see demonstrating safe behavior in the cafeteria. Please click on the link below to sign up!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090D4DADAF29A20-cafeteria>

PARENT RESOURCE

GUIDING GOOD CHOICES

5 Week Family Relationship Building Program

THURSDAYS BEGINNING MARCH 2 6PM- 7PM

DINNER DELIVERED EVERY WEEK

LIFE-LONG SKILLS + CONNECTION

What Is Guiding Good Choices?

GGC is an evidence based 5-session virtual program for parents with children ages 9-14. The program is a multimedia family-competency training program specifically designed to strengthen parents' family management skills, parent-child bonding, and children's peer-resistance skills. Most sessions are parent-focused, though children attend one session, focused on peer pressure.

In just 5 weeks, you will:

- Increase of proactive family communication
- Reduction of negative family interaction
- Improvement of observable relationship quality between parent and child
- Reduced rates of early substance use
- Decrease alcohol-related problems, cigarette use, and other drug use.

CONTACT SARAH MESSINA TO REGISTER:
smessina@cgrc.org
(484) 450-6266
www.cgrc.org

CHILD GUIDANCE CENTER RESOURCE

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES PROGRAM

An evidence-based program for families with children ages 10-14.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES BUILDS 5 PROTECTIVE FACTORS

The world is constantly changing and more information and concerns are being presented to our children every single day. The program is proven to help with:

- Parental resilience
- Social connections
- Knowledge of parenting and child development
- Concrete support in times of need
- Social and emotional competence of children.

BENEFITS TO FAMILIES

You will learn how to express love while setting appropriate limits, how to listen and connect with your child, and how to help all family members show appreciation for one another.

CONTACT

(484) 450-6266
smessina@cgrc.org
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TOOLS, SKILLS & STRATEGIES TO BUILD STRONGER FAMILIES IN 7 WEEKS

Strengthening Families Program is a 7-session, virtual, evidence-based parenting skills, children's social skills, and family life skills program specifically designed for families. Both parents and children participate to improve parenting skills and family relationships, reduce problem behaviors, delinquency and alcohol and drug abuse in children and improve social skills and school performance.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Families and children meet over Zoom and explore a variety of topics to enhance connection, decrease stress, prevent substance use, and build resilience.

The group meets for **7 Wednesdays** beginning **March 8th** from **6:00pm - 8:00pm**

Topics covered include:

- Peer pressure resistance
- Reducing stress
- Finding family values
- Better communication skills
- Problem solving
- Goal Setting
- Understanding each other better

Free to join **Evidence-based program**

CHILD GUIDANCE CENTER RESOURCE

Montgomery County Office of Drug & Alcohol