

Woodside High School (Woodside, CA)

The Context

Located south of San Francisco near the surrounding communities of Redwood City and Portola Valley, Woodside High School is transforming the way students learn and prepare for the future. In 2010, Woodside High School forged a partnership with the Quaglia Institute. Through the shared decision-making model employed by the school, they officially adopted the Institute's 8 Conditions as part of their Expected Schoolwide Learning Results (ESLRs) and as a framework to amplify student voice in their school community.



Implementation

WOODSIDE HIGH SCHOOL FOSTERS THE "8 CONDITIONS" OF STUDENT SUCCESS:

- BELONGING**
Feeling like you are part of a group, while knowing you are special for who you are.
- HEROES**
Having someone who believes in you and who is there when you need them.
- SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT**
Being recognized for many different types of success, including hard work and being a good person.
- FUN AND EXCITEMENT**
Enjoying what you are doing, whether at work, school, or play
- CURIOSITY & CREATIVITY**
Asking "Why?" and "Why not?" about the world around you.
- SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE**
Being excited to try new things, even when you are not sure if you will be good at them.
- LEADERSHIP & RESPONSIBILITY**
Making your own decisions and accepting responsibility for those choices.
- CONFIDENCE TO TAKE ACTION**
Setting goals and taking the steps you need to reach them.

In addition to adopting the 8 Conditions, the staff created an Aspirations Professional Learning Committee that meets monthly. The committee includes staff and students who work in partnership with one another to continually embed the 8 Conditions as the driving force behind the "Woodside Way" that guides all aspects of school life. This Aspirations Collaborative provides teachers throughout the school with mini-lessons that are taught on a regular basis. They also plan Aspirations Days that are aimed at fostering a sense of belonging for all staff and students at Woodside. Students take the Quaglia Student Voice Survey every year. Results are analyzed by staff and student leaders who co-determine what actions should be taken for continued improvement. Staff and students also participate in focus groups on a regular basis, as the school community is committed to listening and learning as much as they can before making important school decisions. Survey results and associated actions taken are included as part of the school's accountability measures for the Western

Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) review. More important than the external accountability, however, is the internal expectations staff and students at Woodside have established for themselves. Student voice has truly become a way of being at Woodside High.