



Thomas A. Edison Middle School
Quaglia Legacy Project
Connected Community, Voice, and Aspirations

Thomas A. Edison Middle School teachers and staff believe that with the right tools, our students can soar. By building a connected community, encouraging strong student voice, and guiding their aspirations, our students can get the motivation and support they need to tackle any obstacle, be proud of their accomplishments, and establish a great sense of purpose that will last them a lifetime. This is the reason why our Legacy Project focuses on the three categories of Connected Community, Voice, and Aspirations.

Building a Connected Community

A connected community is important to our student's personal and academic success. Community connections allow our students to witness how the fruits of hard labor and purpose can achieve almost anything. This in turn allows students to practice leadership and responsibility while experiencing fun and feeling a sense of belonging.

A connected community helps students excel which in turn benefits our school. For example, in order to support students in reaching their potential, Edison teachers, parents, and staff outreach to local organizations to donate, motivate, and provide the students with engaging activities, making positive connections to achieve a common goal: student success.

One of the ways that Edison work on establishing a culture of community building is through our annual community and/or family events. We pride ourselves in our bi-annual family event such as the GATE/Dual Language potluck where families celebrate culture and student achievements as well as foster positive family-student-teacher interactions.

Additionally, the Annual Eco-Fair that takes place each Spring is another way our school build community connections. This annual event is led and generated by students to encourage a responsible, earth-friendly, eco-friendly community. In preparation for the Eco-Fair, students engage in interdisciplinary projects that are presented to the community to interact with student's global concerns. Edison invites not only the parents of our students, but also our partnering feeder schools and our local community.

Moreover, Edison always find local communities/agencies to sponsor students, donate, or come inspire students through project collaborations with teachers, do motivational speeches, or participate in career day activities. We reach out to our partner feeder schools for our annual High School Fair where parents, 8th grade students, and local High Schools can recruit and/or inform the students of their prospective school. This year, for example, UPS donated toys to our annual Holiday Gift Drive. Also, art student, Ellie Whang, collaborated with our Art teacher to work on Aspirations Ceramic Tiles.



Student Voice

Student voice is an integral part in building our student's self-worth, engagement, and sense of purpose. By using their voice, we hope our students realize that they can make a difference in the way they learn, in how they interact with others, and how they connect with their teachers in order to create a positive outcome for themselves. Having a voice is important for them to also advocate for their educational needs in the classroom, in school, and beyond.

We established Breakfast in the Classroom Ambassadors to help disseminate information to our students regarding WASC and other school-related concerns or information, and assist with surveys or other tasks needing student input. Breakfast in the Classroom ambassadors were nominated and chosen by their peers to be their representative for any school and/or classroom concerns.

We included World Café discussions with our students in regards to analyzing data. Our Leadership class used the World Café discussion method to go over the Fall School Voice Report Data and after looking at the data, offered some solutions that might improve on some of the low scored areas. The RFEP/EO Specialized Team also used the World Café discussion method and invited some students to participate in analyzing the School Experience Survey (SES). Teachers and students worked together to analyze the SES survey and together, come up with solutions to address some of the areas. One student recommended that we should have a "Good Deeds Box" in the Counseling Office where students can anonymously write down good deeds they observed someone doing to be read out loud during morning PA announcements. We will follow up on the student's suggestion in the Fall as COVID 19 prevented us from enacting on this suggestion.

During the Holiday Gift Drive, identified students in need were given a chance to fill out their Wish List via Google Form so they can get their choice of gift from their list.

Teachers continue to use the iKMC surveys to understand their student's thoughts about their classes and content.

Teachers were given Fostering Student Voice bookmarks to remind them how to go about making connections with their students and encouraging students to use their voice in the classrooms. Likewise, students were given the Activating Student Voice bookmarks to give them some ideas on how to begin using more of their voice and be heard by their peers and teachers.

Students also provided input when it came to the types of school clubs they would like to see in the school. During Breakfast in the Classroom, teachers asked students to fill out an interest form on the clubs they would like to have. A list was generated based on student responses,



and due to some of the students' interests, some teachers were willing to host the clubs in their classrooms during lunch.

Student-Led-Conferences also incorporates more student voice. Instead of the traditional Teacher-Led-Conferences, our school decided to do the Student-Led-Conferences to encourage more parent and student participation. Doing the conferences this way allowed the students to share a more in-depth look at their work to their parents, explain what the assignments are, as well as how they received their grade.

Aspirations

Edison Middle School believe that in order to achieve and accomplish a goal, one must be able to visualize that goal and do everything in one's power to take the steps in order to achieve them. This is the message we want to instill in our students to motivate them to do their best so they can one day reach their aspirations.

Gear Up and AVID are great in finding Colleges for our students to take Field Trips tours. This activity allows our students to see what college looks like, what college life might be, what types of different colleges are out there, how much it costs, and how to get there.

In addition, our Elective classes have the Naviance Program (a College Readiness Program) that allows our students to finish Academic Goal Setting Tasks, Social Emotional Tasks, Virtual College and Career Road Trips. They can research colleges and/or careers using this platform.

During the Fall, Gear Up created College Door Contests to promote Colleges, and invited Motivational Speakers such as PLUS Me Project to speak to our students about their experiences. They also opened up the College and Career and Gear Up Club to assist students during lunch with college readiness curriculum, college information, grades, etc.

And every Spring, we have a Career Day where invited Guest Speakers come to our school to speak to our students regarding their school journey (childhood to college) and the challenges and successes they had along the way that paved their current path. But, due to COVID-19, we may have to do a Virtual Career Day this year.
