



Hilliard IB PYP News



Hilliard Elementary School Mission Statement

Hilliard Elementary School educates for excellence by providing an environment that promotes globally-minded, compassionate, lifelong learners who are knowledgeable and socially responsible citizens.



The purpose of FLEXIBLE LEARNING SPACES

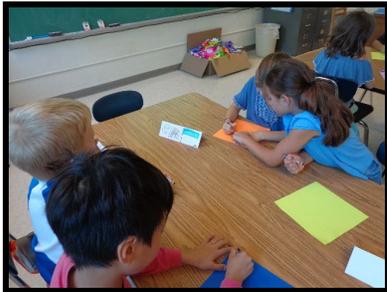
You may have noticed that many of our school learning spaces don't look like classrooms did in the past.

Just like many adult work spaces, our learning spaces give students choices of where to sit or stretch out to do their work, whether they work alone or with peers, and with whom they work.

Options include table groups, traditional desks, the option to stand, sit, kneel or lie down on the floor, comfy-chair seating, nooks, and things like exercise bands and wiggle seat cushions to satisfy that need to move.



Here are some benefits:



- **Comfort and Movement:** Students can focus better if they are comfortable. For many students, this includes being able to “fidget” or move around as they learn. When students are uncomfortable, they are distracted from learning.
- **Choice and Agency:** Students can be more engaged in their learning when they are given choices of where and with whom they work.
- **Collaboration and Community:** Flexible seating allows students to easily work in small groups, sharing strategies and learning from each other. They learn to compromise as they share ideas, space, and supplies.

Flexible seating in classrooms and at home can help students feel ownership of their space and learning, stay on task, and show positive behaviors. [Check out this slideshow of some of the flexible learning spaces in our Westlake elementary schools.](#)



Pawsitive Tuesdays and PBIS: Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful

Through Hilliard's Pawsitive Tuesdays, intended to promote positive behaviors, we encourage students to follow the **Big 3: Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful** by focusing on specific IB attitudes and learner profile attributes each month. Adults in the school nominate students each month who exemplify a highlighted



Hilliard IB PYP News



attitude or attribute.

During an assembly on Oct. 2, students will be introduced to the learner profile attribute: **Communicator** and the IB attitudes: **Empathy** and **Tolerance**. Students and staff are encouraged to wear their PBIS “Big 3” t-shirts, Hilliard or Westlake spiritwear, or a green shirt. **Order a PBIS “Big 3” shirt for your child online by Oct 5 through this link: <http://clevelandprintwearstores.com/westlake3r/shop/home> by Oct. 7, 2018**

Here are some things **you** can do at home to encourage your child to demonstrate this month’s attribute and attitude:

Communicator: Encourage your children to express their ideas by speaking, drawing and writing. This includes communicating using more than one language and in mathematical language and symbols.



Activities for Parents:

- Encourage your child to stay in touch with relatives and friends who live in other countries by writing letters, using the phone or sending an email or text to share what they’ve been up to.
- When working on homework, encourage your child to explain his/her answer to you orally or by drawing a picture.
- Provide opportunities for students to work and play with others, building their social skills.
- Work with your child to improve his/her listening skills. Being a good listener is an important part of communicating with others.
- Utilize school-sponsored discussion boards and blogs to enhance written communication skills. This is a great way to teach digital citizenship, as well.

Empathy: Talk to your children about imagining themselves in another’s place to help them understand their perspectives, actions and emotions. Questions like, “I wonder how he feels about that?” or “Why do you think she did that?” can open the door to discussion. [This video](#) explains empathy nicely.



Tolerance: Model and help your children to be sensitive about differences and diversity in the world around them. Responding calmly and honestly to children’s questions and comment about differences they observe will help build tolerance and acceptance of others’ differences.

If you are interested in more detailed information, visit our school webpage <http://www.wlake.org/our-schools/hilliard-elementary> or contact me: Deb Wadden, IB PYP Coordinator waddend@wlake.org



Westlake City Schools Mission Statement

We Educate for Excellence...Empowering all students to achieve their educational goals, to direct their lives and to contribute to society.