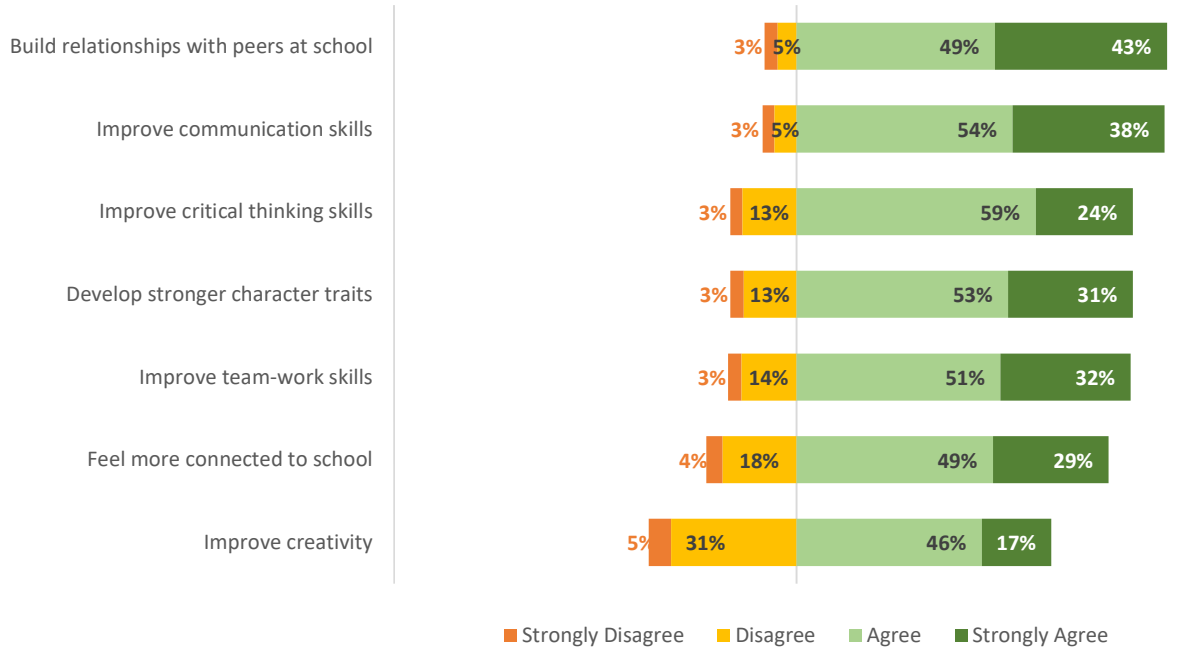




Orange County Academic Decathlon (OCAD) 2022-2023 Student Survey Data

In January 2023, 372 decathletes participated in a survey to gather information regarding the OCAD program's impact on increasing student engagement and developing 21st century skills in the areas of communication, critical thinking, collaboration, and positive character traits. Below are the survey results.

Percent (%) of students that reported OCAD help them to:



Note. Percentages were rounded to the nearest whole number.

Data Highlights:

- **92%** of students reported that OCAD helped them **build relationships with their peers at school.**
- **92%** of students reported improved **skills in communication.**
- **84%** of students reported improved **critical thinking skills.**
- **84%** of students reported that OCAD helped them develop **stronger character traits.**
- **83%** of students reported improved **skills in team-work.**
- **78%** of students reported feeling more **connected to their school.**
- **63%** of students reported improved **creativity.**

In the students' words:

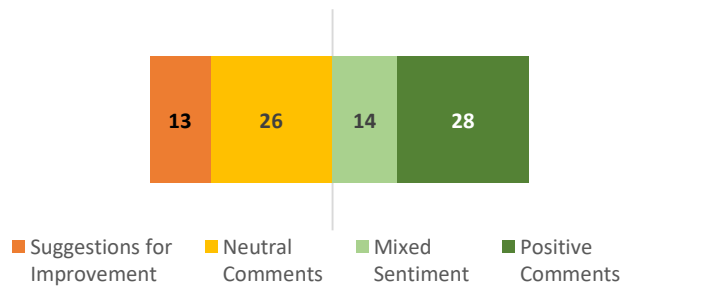
- "I really enjoyed being in Academic Decathlon because it has helped me improve skills and learn new things."*
- "I enjoyed the interview and the impromptu speech and I feel like I have learned new life skills."*
- "I have loved participating in Academic Decathlon. It has taught me the importance of long-term preparation and has brought me closer to my fellow teammates!"*
- "Academic Decathlon has boosted my confidence and being a part of a team is such a fulfilling experience. I thought going into high school that I would never get the chance to be a part of a team because I didn't play sports but Academic Decathlon has given me a very amazing opportunity."*
- "I love the support and friendliness of my peers and coaches."*

How would you rate this year's online format?



Comment Analysis

There are almost an equal number of positive comments and suggestions for improvement.



Positive Comments

Academic decathlon has boosted my confidence and being apart of a team is such a fulfilling experience. I thought going into high school that I would never get the chance to be apart of a team because I didn't play sports but Academic decathlon has given me a very amazing opportunity.

I have loved participating in Academic Decathlon. It has taught me the importance of long-term preparation and has brought me closer to my fellow teammates!

Great experience!

Academic Decathlon has truly allowed me to explore my passions and connect further with my classmates.

This year was very fun and interesting!

I love the support and friendliness of my peers and coaches.

I really enjoyed being in Academic Decathlon because it has helped me improve skills and learn new things.

I enjoyed the interview and the impromptu speech and I feel like I have learned new life skills.

Academic Decathlon has impacted me positively.

I really love my academic decathlon team! I would sacrifice myself for my team.

I am happy to be apart of Academic Decathlon.

This was a fun experience :)

I think this year's program was pretty cool

Mixed Sentiment Comments

Online tests were not reliable, Many computers did not work and delayed testing times.

Instead of online objective testing, please use scantrons. Doing physical tests is much more enjoyable as a student. We should take tests at our own school. Many people's computers were crashing and wasted our time. It is much more fun at our own schools.

- Awards is also too long. Why does it take 3 hours to say a few names?

- There should be a full-screen mode to prevent cheating.

It was ok.

I feel the questions for the objective quiz and the prompts for the essay are overwhelmingly "you know it or you don't" type of questions. This, along with a lump of massive PDFs with the material we need to learn that aren't very engaging or incentivizing did not broaden my critical thinking skills. I feel that perhaps videos would help teach us the material we need to learn in a more engaging manner. I feel that the questions should be more open ended as well. In that way, our critical thinking skills would be more open to improvement.

I think the math portion is kinda hard, even for excellent students. Coupled with 35 problems in 30 minutes, I think its quite impossible to finish in time without guessing.

Neutral Comments

It's nice to build stronger friendships with peers.

I appreciate most aspects of Academic Decathlon except for the overall costs that falls on each individual student. The cost of Academic Decathlon is not contributed to by the school, meaning that the overall cost of licensing and competing falls on each student. We only had one team, meaning each student needed to pay well over \$100 to compete in a competition that's meant to provide competition opportunities to every student. It was a little steep for some students and discouraged participation at our school.

I think we should try to do more team work activities before competition

Suggestions for Improvement

Please change the objective testing back to use of scantrons. Using chromebooks caused many technological problem for the testing.

Make the material understandable for all grade levels. (Ex, don't assign a text with pre calculus to a freshman/sophomore student.)

Please make a rap themed music sections, that would actually be really cool

Online objective testing is not it. Better on paper.

Please adjust the levels of difficulty for the math and science sections.

Better website please.

It would be great if the essay prompts were derived from subjects that you can write an essay on. Art and music would have much more you could write about compared to something like science. Literature and social studies are still good though.

I feel that the proctors should highly enforce the students regarding the test policy. They should walk around more looking at students whether they are cheating or not.

this is ridiculous to come to a school we do not attend to take a test on our own computers. It does not make sense since those who live closer get more sleep and have an advantage. the restrooms also are suspicious
A suggestion is to make the award ceremony shorter and make competition B have to also do essay because many of them mentioned they missed it.

With the timing of the tests, it would be better if it wasn't on finals week. Also, with the subject tests, I don't believe it is necessary to go in person.

Please make a rap themed music sections, that would actually be really cool