



Portrait of an Oak Park 8th Grade Graduate

**COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT UPDATE**

January 16, 2024
D97 Board of Education Meeting

What's the big idea?





Tonight's Presenters

January 2024

Dr. Ebony Lofton (Co-Lead)
Chief Learning Innovation Officer

Amanda Siegfried (Co-Lead)
Senior Director of Communications and Engagement



Meet the Portrait Design Team

January 2024

Dr. Ebony Lofton (Co-Lead)
Chief Learning Innovation Officer

Amanda Siegfried (Co-Lead)
Senior Director of Communications and Engagement

Dr. Luis Fernando De Leon
Assistant Superintendent of Middle Schools

Patrick Robinson
Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools

Dr. Tawanda Lawrence
Senior Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Donna Middleton
Senior Director of Student Services

Dr. Anna Colaner
Senior Director of Data Analytics and Res

Lonya Boose
Director, Superintendent's Office

Rebecca Bald
Communications and Engagement Manager



Board Feedback on Our Radar

Here's what we heard during our December 12 update:

- We should consider how to reach families who may not feel a sense of belonging
- We want to ensure that *staff, students* and families have a number of options for engagement (i.e. virtual sessions, *providing feedback anonymously*)and we would love to better understand the communication plan

Previous feedback to address in future planning work:

- We need to make sure we are keeping people connected to Portrait throughout the year.
- Make sure we have evaluation points built in.
- It would be helpful to schedule events and provide a calendar for board involvement.



Portrait Update

January 2024

01

**TIMELINE/FEEDBACK
CHECK-IN**

02

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
STRATEGY UPDATE**

03

**PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE:
VERSION TWO**

04

NEXT STEPS

Preparing for the Portrait: Timeline Check-In





Portrait Timeline

October 2023

- ✓ Review digital toolkit
- ✓ Plan staff engagement
- ✓ Plan affinity-based listening sessions
- ✓ Provide community update

Winter 2023

- Begin community-wide engagement process to get feedback on the Portrait
- Begin data/feedback analysis

November 2023

- ✓ Hold staff design sessions
- ✓ Hold affinity-based listening sessions (Black families, multilingual, students with disabilities, elders)

Spring 2024

- Synthesize feedback through affinity group analysis
- Share draft Portrait of an 8th Grade Graduate with the Board and community

Ongoing updates during Board business meetings



Portrait Communication





December Update: Our Portrait Story so Far

Portrait of an Oak Park 8th Grade Graduate

Dear District 97 Community,

I would like to thank members of our community who have already been part of dreaming, designing and defining our Portrait of an Oak Park 8th Grade Graduate. If you have not yet participated, your opportunity to join us is coming soon in 2024.

Our Portrait will reflect our community's collective vision for District 97 students and serve as the strategic plan for our organization. Below you will find a brief summary of this story so far.

Our next chapter will be written in January, when we begin design sessions at all 10 of our schools. Stay tuned to learn about part of this grand project. You can also chime in with a thought at any time via [Let's Talk](#).

Our Portrait story

Dreaming, Designing and Defining Our Portrait

Centering Student Voice and Experience



Our district's [equity policy](#) calls for a significant transformation of instructional, operational and cultural systems within our organization. In preparation for our Portrait, we are aligning resources in new ways and making shifts in adult practices to better support our students' experiences.

At the core of this transformation is the commitment to amplifying students' voices and providing them with choices in their learning journey. For example, on Dec. 13, the Student Leadership Team at Julian Middle School engaged in a listening session with district leaders about their hopes for their educational experience and the qualities they are seeking in a school principal. Their feedback not only drove the design of a principal search survey for all students, but it is also actively informing our approach to Portrait of a Graduate.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024



DISTRICT 97 NEWS

www.op97.org

Dear District 97 Community,

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Our Portrait will reflect our community's collective vision for District 97 students and serve as the strategic plan for our organization. On both sides of this insert, you will find a brief summary of this story so far.

Our next chapter will be written this winter, when we begin holding design sessions at all 10 of our schools. Stay tuned to learn about how you can be part of this grand project. You can also chime in with a thought or idea at any time via Let's Talk.

For now, I wish you a joyful start to new year and look forward to seeing you soon.

With gratitude,
Ushma



D97 Superintendent Ushma Shah

Dreaming, Designing and Defining Our Portrait

Centering Student Voice and Experience

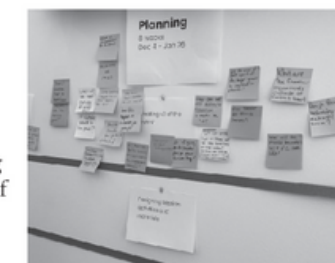


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Educator Design Sessions

This fall, D97 educators developed a "Version 1" of our draft Portrait that reflects initial thinking around core competencies and learning standards that we believe will be critical to student success. A team of educators met on Oct. 30 to craft definitions for 10 draft Portrait dimensions, which were then used to generate conversations and feedback during our first round of listening sessions. During our Nov. 10 Institute Day, a different group of teacher leaders participated in a workshop to prepare for our broader community engagement this winter. *(Story continued on next page.)*



Connect with District 97: [f @OakPark97](#) [t @OakPark97](#) [v YouTube](#)

Oak Park Elementary School District 97
260 Madison St., Oak Park, IL 60302
(708) 524-3000
www.op97.org

Sign up to receive weekly updates from the district:
www.op97.org/communications
Share feedback, questions and concerns via Let's Talk!
www.op97.org/letstalk

Community Engagement Update





Community Engagement Sessions: February and March 2024

Highlights

- District 97 will hold more than 15 design sessions during February and March 2024, including:
 - Events at all 10 schools
 - Multiple virtual opportunities
 - A session for D97 alumni
 -
- Sessions will be engaging/interactive.
- We are working on alternative feedback options/opportunities for those who cannot attend in person.
- Communication will begin later this month.

Portrait of an Eighth Grade Graduate: Version 2





DRAFT Portrait of an Oak Park 8th Grade Graduate*



SELF-LOVE, SELF-IDENTITY, SELF-ADVOCACY

To navigate life effectively, our graduates will develop the ability to understand their thoughts, feelings, and actions in order to better communicate and make reflective decisions.



ACADEMICALLY PREPARED

Definition TBD



HOLISTICALLY WELL

Students will simultaneously address, understand, and advocate for their physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being.



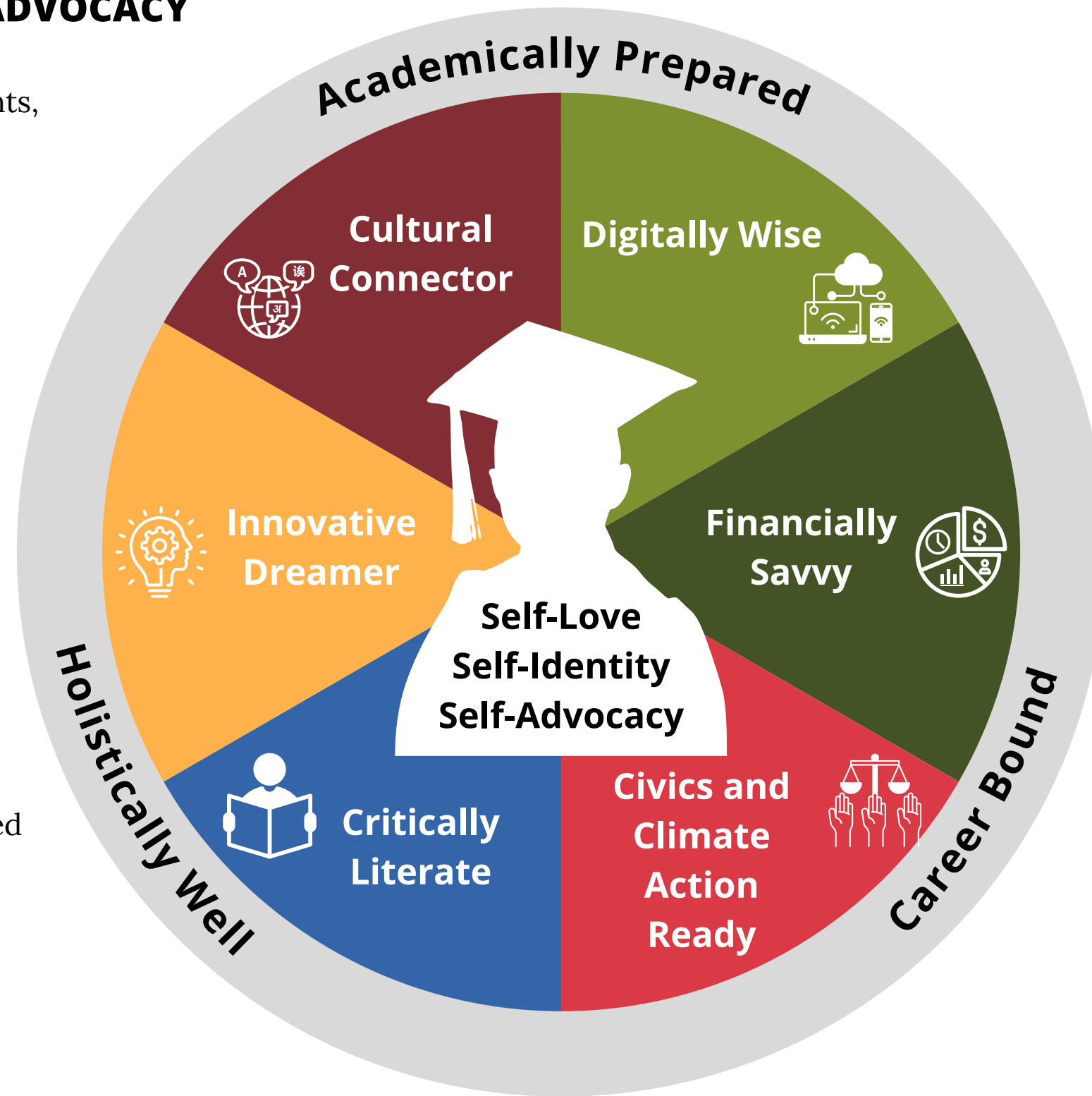
INNOVATIVE DREAMER

Graduates will be visionaries who see a need for themselves or community and are prepared to collaborate, “think outside of the box” to create ideas, and put their ideas into action.



CRITICALLY LITERATE

Students will have the skills necessary to take in, analyze, evaluate and articulate information in a thoughtful manner in order to make sense of the world around them.



CULTURAL CONNECTOR

Students will be multilingual and will value, and understand multiple cultures as they become multicultural.



DIGITALLY WISE

Our students will have the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the world through technology responsibly and safely while making informed and ethical decisions.



FINANCIALLY SAVVY

Graduates will make smart financial decisions by understanding and making use of a variety of financial skills.



CIVICS AND CLIMATE ACTION READY

Graduates will have the ability to make a difference in our community through the combination of civic knowledge, skills, actions, mindsets, and experiences.



CAREER BOUND

Graduates will explore a vast variety of careers, including trade/non-college track. They will practice behaviors that are important for the workforce, and know their own interests, skills and passions.

DRAFT Version 2 - December 2023

**IL Learning Standards alignment: TBD based on staff feedback*

Next Steps





What's Next

Designing an inclusive community engagement plan for our Portrait

- ✔ Finalize V2 of our Portrait that also reflects affinity group feedback
- ✔ Communicate dates/times for school and district design sessions
- ✔ Develop Portrait overview video
- ✔ Ongoing updates
 - School and district newsletters
 - Board meetings



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DISCUSSION

Questions

