

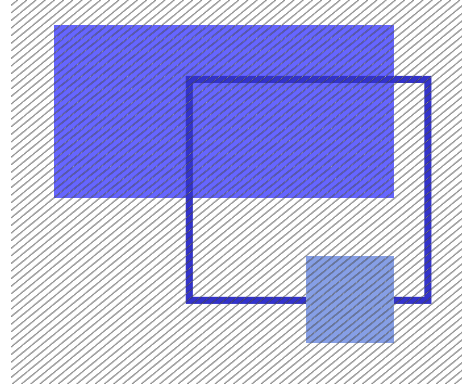


# Johns Hopkins Connectedness Research



My name is Leslie, and this is my partner, Drake.

We are students at Health Leadership High School, where we focus on leadership, community impact, and preparing for careers in health and science. Today, we're excited to share our work and what we've learned with you.



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# Where We Started

# Where we started:

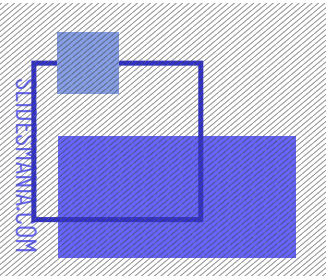
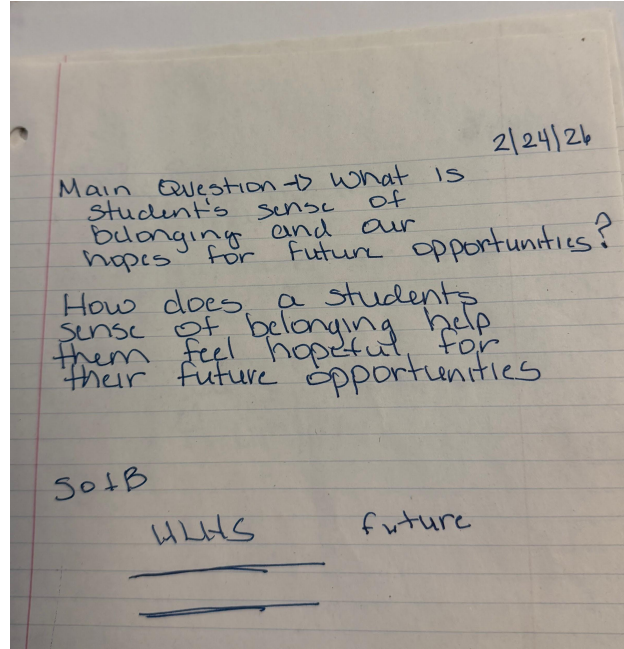
The idea of improving student connectedness started from our meetings with Johns Hopkins, where we wanted to focus on finding better ways to understand students and improve their overall school experience. One of the biggest goals was to make sure students feel heard, supported, and included in decisions that affect them.





# Progress Building

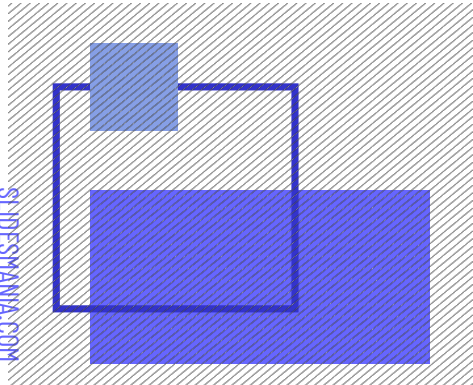
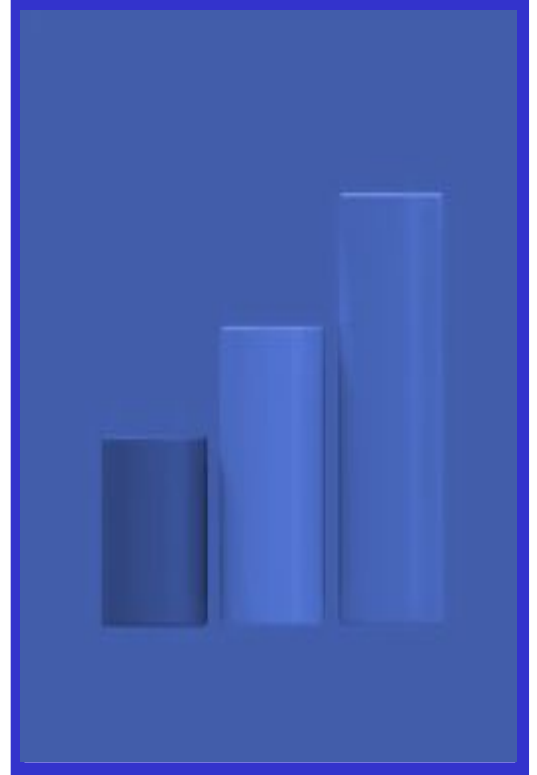
Back in February, we began to tune in to the Johns Hopkins meetings. From the meetings, we started building a driving question and we decided we wanted to dive deeper into how HLHS can connect student sense of belonging to a successful future.



# Finding The Problems And Building The Questions

# Data

To build off of our main question we looked at past survey data collected from students over the past three years to build a newer set of questions we could ask in focus groups.



# Data Research



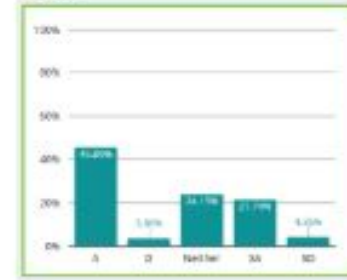
Based off this past data, we can see the areas that would benefit from improvement. In this example talking about student belonging we looked at in past years we had a small number of students saying they dont feel like they belong or answering neither so we specifically came up with questions to dive deeper into why students may have those feelings and how we as a school can improve.

My school does a good job of helping all students feel like they belong.

2023-24



2024-25



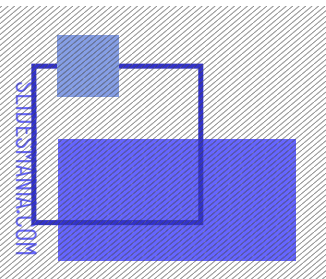
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# Student Questions:

From the data collected we as a Johns Hopkins team, we came together and asked how can we could improve so all students feel accepted into the HLHS community. So as a team we came up with some open ended questions to ask students to see how HLHS can further strengthen student sense of belonging.

1. In what ways do adults at HLHS show that they care about their students? Can you share a specific example?
2. How would you describe the relationships between students and adults at HLHS?
3. How do you think your experience at HLHS is preparing you for life after graduation?
4. Are there any additional opportunities you wish HLHS offered to better prepare students?
5. What could the school do to help students feel even more confident about their futures?
6. What does "belonging" at HLHS look or feel like to you?
7. Can you describe a moment where you felt like you truly belonged at school?
8. Are there specific programs, teachers, or experiences at HLHS that have had the biggest impact on your growth? Why?
9. What could HLHS do differently to better support students' futures and sense of belonging?
10. How do staff members at HLHS motivate students to make connections? Give an example.
11. How do family school events help students feel more connected to the HLHS community?
12. What kind of events would make students feel more connected to HLHS? Why?
13. Has HLHS prepared students for real-world situations? How?
14. What helps students at HLHS feel comfortable being themselves at school?
15. How do friendships at HLHS influence success or motivation in school?

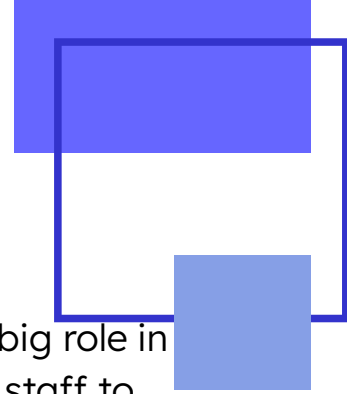
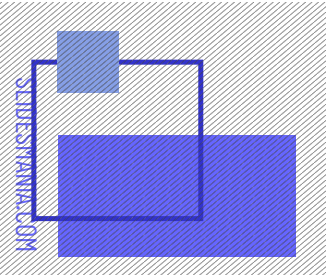


# Staff Questions:

When creating the student questions, we as a Johns Hopkins team saw staff had a big role in student sense of belonging so we came up with some open ended questions for the staff to get staff input on their side of how they are connected with students.

## Staff Questions

1. How do you think you make your students feel like they belong?
2. In what ways do you show students that you care about them?
3. How are you contributing to helping students with their career plans?
4. How can you help students feel hopeful for their future?
5. How do you build trust with your students and maintain it throughout the year?
6. What strategies do you use to help students feel confident in their abilities?
7. How do you help students explore their passions or career interests?



# Focus Groups

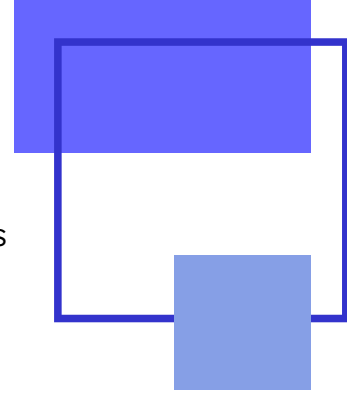
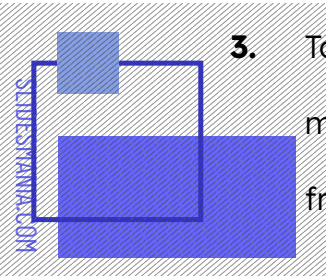
# Student-Led Focus Groups

We collected information directly from students by organizing student-led focus groups. These groups were designed to be more open and comfortable, so students could honestly share their thoughts. We focused on important topics like student belonging, whether students feel accepted and valued at school, and future opportunities, like how prepared they feel for life after high school.



# Steps to Lead Focus Groups:

- 1.** With the help of our staff, we selected a few random groups of students to make sure we were hearing from a wide range of voices.
- 2.** Next, we sent out a staff survey to all teachers so we could also understand their perspectives and compare them with what students were saying.
- 3.** To make sure our questions were meaningful, we looked at survey data from the past three years.
- 4.** After that, we created questions that would lead to more thoughtful and honest discussions during the focus groups.
- 5.** After developing the questions, we presented them to students and gave them the chance to share their opinions.

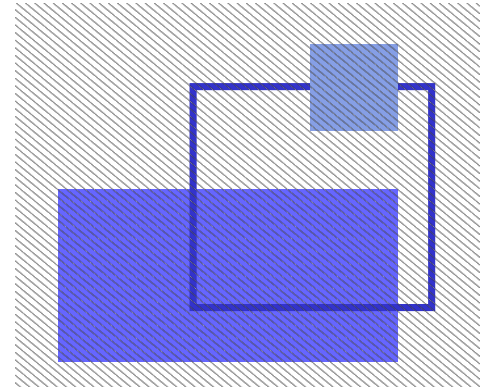


# Results

# Results

We as a Johns Hopkins team are very happy with the turn out from the focus groups!

Students from HLHS were really comfortable in the focus groups and had no problem sharing there student voice in how HLHS can improve.



# Next Steps

# Thank you!

Any Questions or comments?