

# Saratoga Connection



March 2021

## Principal's Corner

Dear Saratoga Families,  
It is hard to believe that one year ago our lives changed and school as we knew it shifted. It has been a very busy few weeks here at Saratoga as we've welcomed students back into the building for in-person/concurrent instruction and continued to provide strong virtual instruction. We continue to be proud of all the work our students and staff have been doing. There have been many challenges this year, and as we reflect back on where we started and where we are today, it is truly remarkable how far we've come. We have learned so much together, and we know there is much more learning and growing to do together before the school year's end.

Thank you for your partnership. We know this year has been a learning experience for you, too, and we appreciate all you've been doing at home to support your students. Without you, this would not be successful.

We are almost at the end of Quarter 3. The quarter ends on March 26, and this day will be a 2-hour Early Release for students, with the school day ending at 2:15 PM. Spring Break is from March 29 - April 2, and April 5 is a Teacher Worday. We will welcome students back for Quarter 4 on April 6.

We continue to administer required assessments, including the WIDA. Additional information about SOL assessments for Grades 3-6 is forthcoming.

As always, please reach out if you need anything. We look forward to our continued collaboration and partnership.

Take Care, Stay Well & Be Safe,

Erica Loesch  
Principal

Abby Lower  
Asst. Principal

Abby Ragan  
Asst. Principal

## P2 Spotlight

### WHAT DOES SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE MEAN?

You are aware of other people's thoughts and feelings. You understand why they do things.

Social intelligence refers to a person's ability to understand and manage interpersonal relationships. It is distinct from a person's IQ or "book smarts." It includes an individual's ability to understand, and act on, the feelings, thoughts, and behaviors of other people. This type of intelligence can take place "in the moment" of face-to-face conversations but also appears during times of deliberate thinking. It involves emotional intelligence and self-awareness.

Examples of social intelligence include knowing when to talk or listen, what to say, and what to do. Timing is a big part of social intelligence. For example, someone who is imperceptive, may tell a funny joke – but at the wrong time, or not show enough interest when meeting someone new.

See the included "character card" to learn more about this Positivity Project (P2) character trait.

**"The single most important lesson I learned in 25 years of talking every single day to people, was that there's a common denominator in our human experience. The common denominator I found in every single interview is we want to be validated. We want to be understood."**

**-OPRAH WINFREY**

Education is a shared commitment between dedicated teachers, motivated students and enthusiastic parents with high expectations.

*Bob Beauprez*

meetville.com

## Saratoga Elementary School

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# SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE

VIA Survey calls this strength Social Intelligence

**Parent virtue: Humanity.** Strengths of humanity involve caring interpersonal relationships with others, particularly in one-to-one relationships. Strengths comprised in this virtue are love, kindness, and social intelligence.



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## WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Social intelligence helps individuals build relationships – and is important to numerous aspects of a person's life. It allows an individual to form friendships and alliances. And, it assists a person against being taken advantage of.

People with social intelligence can "read" other people's faces and know what motivates them. Social intelligence builds over time and as a person ages. In this sense, it is similar to the character strength of perspective.

On a group level, social intelligence is what allows us to function as humans. We are social beings and rely on each other's cooperation. By understanding ourselves and other people, we can find ways to collaborate for mutual benefit. Strong leaders often possess social intelligence in abundance. In order to motivate people, leaders must form relationships and inspire others to want to do what needs to be done.

***Individuals with this strength might be described as:***

- Attuned
- Understanding
- Insightful
- Aware
- Empathetic
- Discerning

***Individuals with this strength are likely to think, feel, or behave in the following ways:***

- I understand other people and their emotions.
- I intuitively grasp what people want and why they want it.
- I understand my own thoughts, feelings, and motivations.
- I am skilled at getting people to cooperate with each other.
- I am able to understand power dynamics in social situations.
- I can always tell when someone is uncomfortable at a party.

## QUOTES ON SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE

*"The single most important lesson I learned in 25 years of talking every single day to people, was that there's a common denominator in our human experience. The common denominator I found in every single interview is we want to be validated. We want to be understood."*

**-OPRAH WINFREY**

*"When I get ready to talk to people, I spend two thirds of the time thinking what they want to hear and one third thinking about what I want to say."*

**-ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

*"When people talk, listen completely. Most people never listen."*

**-ERNEST HEMINGWAY**