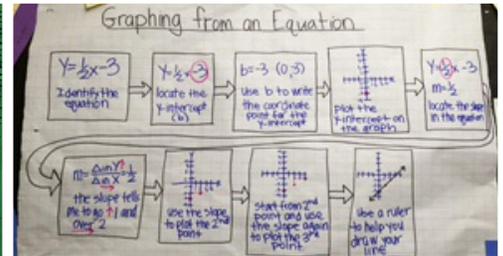
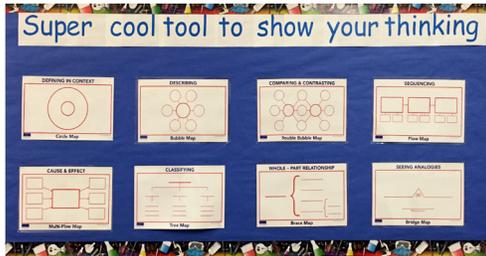




Kenilworth Elementary School, Phoenix Elementary School District #1, Arizona



Kenilworth School holds great prominence in Arizona history. Built in 1920, it is listed on the National Historic Register and boasts famous alumni such as Senator Barry Goldwater and numerous other prominent leaders from Arizona. However, like many urban schools, the school was in transition. When Mr. Anthony Pietrangeli was named principal in the spring of 2015, he jumped at the opportunity to reinvigorate the school’s Thinking Maps practice. Thinking Maps soon became part of the school’s new slogan: “Kenilworth, A Super Cool Thinking Maps School.”

RALLYING AROUND THE MAPS

Anthony saw an opportunity to revitalize the school culture with the use of Thinking Maps. Having used Thinking Maps in his previous school, he knew the Maps can be used to establish a consistent language for learning and enable students to reach higher levels of creative and critical thinking. Prior to his arrival, the staff had begun working with Thinking Maps but had not fully embraced them or integrated them into the language and culture of the school. Teachers were proud of their Thinking Maps heritage, but Anthony did not see much evidence of that legacy when he first came to the school. As a first step to revitalizing their Thinking Maps practice, Anthony and 15 of his teachers were certified as Thinking Maps Trainers during the summer of 2015. Kenilworth hosted the training and invited other schools in Phoenix Elementary School District #1 to participate. The new Kenilworth Thinking Maps Trainers delivered a six-hour training session to the school’s entire staff at the beginning of the 2015-16 school year.

Once everyone was trained, the entire staff infused Thinking Maps throughout the school: in classrooms, in the hallways, in the office and everywhere possible. Wall posters with the eight Maps were displayed in every classroom.

SNAPSHOT

Kenilworth Elementary School

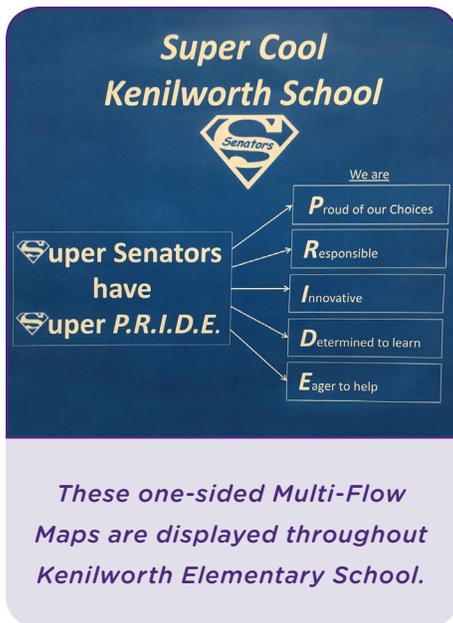
- PreK – 8th
- 581 Students
- 34 Teachers & Instructional Assistants
- 73% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 13.4% ELL Students
- Full-School Title I Program



“Thinking Maps has changed the culture of our school. There is more enthusiasm for learning, and students and teachers are having deeper dialogs in the classroom.”

-Anthony Pietrangeli, Principal,
Kenilworth Elementary School

RALLYING AROUND THE MAPS (CONTINUED)



Tree Maps in the hallways provided a visual introduction to the teachers and office staff. Over the first eight weeks of the school year, teachers introduced one new Map per week to their students. Soon, student Maps festooned the classrooms and hallways as well.

In October, they introduced “Thinking Maps Thursdays.” Each week pictures of student- and teacher-created Maps are included in an email newsletter sent to the entire school staff to share the success stories throughout the school. In November, the Thinking Maps Learning Community (TMLC) was launched to provide teachers with ongoing training and support for their Thinking Maps practice. “Thinking Maps are everywhere you look now across our school. They have taken over bulletin boards and hallways, and it’s visual evidence of the thinking and learning taking place at Kenilworth School,” states Anthony.

MOVING THE SCHOOL TO “SUPER COOL”

The school’s recommitment to Thinking Maps took place in a broader context of transforming the school into a “Super Cool” place for learning. The school’s nickname was changed from the Senators to the “Super Cool Senators.” Teachers were now “Super Cool Leaders of Thinking and Learning.” Thinking Maps were branded as “Super Cool Tools for Learning.”

It is not just talk; the Maps are really working. Students have embraced the Maps and have learned to use them independently to solve problems, clarify their thinking and demonstrate their understanding. The Maps have also become springboards for deeper discussions in the classroom. “We’ve empowered teachers with a tool that helps them do their job more effectively,” said Anthony. “Kids rely on the Maps

for their notebooks and journals. When we give them problems to solve, a majority of them automatically start thinking about which Thinking Map can help them make sense of it,” he added.

Kenilworth 6th Grade Teacher Ms. Erin Patton says, “With the use of the Brace Map and Bridge Map, students are able to see the connection between plant and animal cells and make real-world connections. This year’s success with the Maps really sealed my commitment to using them as learning tools.” Erin’s student Leslie told her the Brace Map really helped her remember all the parts of the animal cell, and it was hard to remember them without the visual Map.

With students, teachers and the entire staff behind the use of Thinking Maps in the school, the shift in school

culture is paying off. Teachers report a higher level of morale and disciplinary incidences are declining. Pride in their “Super Cool” school is at an all-time high and the teacher retention rate is improved.

In 2016, the Kenilworth staff plans to extend their Thinking Maps practice by starting *Write from the Beginning...and Beyond* training. They are committed to continuing to deepen the use of the Maps throughout the writing process. Kenilworth Thinking Maps trainers are also planning to teach 7th and 8th grade students how to be “student Thinking Maps experts” who in turn could mentor and offer support, tips and strategies to peers and parents. Who knows where these Super Cool initiatives will take Kenilworth next?

A CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION AT KENILWORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

