

TA activity 1/28/25

Portrait of a Graduate is back again! The poster on the right is the reminder we've been sharing all school year. These are the skills that students, parents and educators from across the district agreed were most important to be able to do as a graduate and are realistic to achieve.



Today we are going to focus on the **fourth** maple leaf – *A Creative Problem Solver*



A creative problem solver...

- Develops innovative ways to address complex issues.
- Invites collaboration to overcome challenges and barriers.

Part A Activity :

Background information: (View Image) Both of these villages' crops are dying and they need more room for their crops to survive. There is available farming space at the top of the Y in the river. But, the villages can't agree on how to use it because it appears to be only enough for one village to survive. Your Challenge is to use your creativity to devise an equitable and realistic solution to manipulate the river and space for the benefit of both villages and the survival of all. By the end of TA share your solution with Mr. Larson to receive a point for your TA. Then proceed to part B below.



Part B: Prompt: What does it mean to be a creative problem solver?

To be a **creative problem solver graduate** means you can face new or difficult situations, think beyond obvious answers, and come up with effective solutions—even when you don't have all the information or a clear set of instructions.

- 1. You think flexibly-** You don't get stuck on one way of doing things.
- 2. You ask good questions-** Instead of rushing to an answer, you clarify what the real problem is, what constraints exist, and what success would look like.
- 3. You use what you know in new ways -** You apply skills learned in school to unfamiliar situations.
- 4. You're comfortable with trial and error -** You test ideas, learn from mistakes, and adjust rather than giving up when the first solution fails.
- 5. You generate original ideas-** Your solutions may be simple or practical, you adapt, improve, or invent based on the situation.
- 6. You work well with others -** You listen to different perspectives, build on others' ideas, and collaborate to find better solutions.
- 7. You take initiative -** You don't always wait to be told what to do.

Write down ways you have been a creative problem solver on the [template](#) I've provided. We will be coming back to this throughout the year. For now, take a few minutes to get some ideas down on paper while we're thinking about this.

(ADVISORS: COLLECT your student's [templates](#) at the end of today's meeting)