WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING

“At the beginning of the year, it was definitely challenging to see things through a problem-solving lens instead of just seeing a problem and focusing on the negative. I felt my problem-solving skills grow as I learned the steps to Design Thinking and how to build empathy. These are things that I think will help me in all aspects of my life.”

“When this class started, a lot of how I judged my knowledge and worth was based on the grade I received in class and I was more motivated by doing well than really understanding the content. As this year progressed, I have grown in my ability to see the value in understanding more than how it manifests in my grades.”

“Although I found this course to be super interesting when I enrolled, I did not understand the impact that it would have on me. I now genuinely believe that on the other side of discomfort is growth. I feel that I have grown and have become increasingly more internally motivated when it comes to my learning.”

“At the beginning of this class, I was very uncomfortable with the fact that I would not always know the answer or have a solution for something. By the end of this year, I now understand that making errors is not a terrible thing or sign of weakness that I need to stress over. I have grown to a point that I can proceed calmly after messing up without feeling like I failed because sometimes you have to mess up to get to the right solution. Now, I understand that I do not have to know everything to be smart.”

“Through our shared stress about presenting and the struggles of learning to work with many people from different backgrounds and with different schedules, I know now that I will enter all of my classes next year with a stronger ability to collaborate and communicate effectively.”

“In my life, the typical work and grades I have in class wouldn’t show that I understood the material, even if I did. In this class, I was able to be evaluated fairly on my strengths and how they presented themselves in my work, and not just by the number of answers I got right in a timed setting. This class made me feel successful and valuable to my peers, which is a feeling I don’t usually have in school. The process of finding a solution to a problem really boosted my confidence which helped me to focus on my learning for the fun of it.”

“This experience helped me focus less on learning in order to be rewarded with an A, and instead I found myself wanting to learn so I could connect it to the design thinking process and how to better solve the problem I was working on.

“The culture of this class isn’t focused on the end result of the grade, it is focused on the learning. It got me excited to apply what we were learning outside of class. Everything felt so applicable to my world. As the year progressed, I have found myself less concerned about grades in most of my classes and more focused on my learning.”