



RHINO REPORT

WINTER 2020

Perseverance Puzzles invade Ridgewood Avenue School

Beyond the textbooks, the chromebooks and the reading books, Ridgewood Avenue School is always thinking of ways to inspire, encourage and support the whole child. GRIT is a serious concept that can make a big difference in the success of children [and adults] and thinking of ways to integrate grit into our already busy days is on our mind.

Recently, we brought perseverance puzzles into classrooms and offices. They might be 500 pieces or 1000, and even a few 2000 piece puzzles are making their way around the building. The puzzles vary from exciting scenes, animal groups [with a rhino, of course] and content specific puzzles like the Periodic Table of Elements or a US map. Whether students have free time, finish work early or need a distraction or a few moments to reset in their day, the puzzles are there for many purposes. The most important goal is the idea of perseverance as they push through the frustration of not finding a needed piece or the possibility of simply giving up because it isn't going their way. When the class finishes a puzzle, they're typically trading with other rooms to continue giving students different experiences.

Perhaps you've been concerned your child needs to learn how to not give up, take on challenges that may not come easily to them or simply learn how to work through frustrations and problems with a focused outcome. If grit has been on your mind as a parent, then perseverance puzzles can help. I encourage you to email your child's teacher and ask them to find chances in a day to have your child fine tune their grit skills and don't let them give up. Of course, it's also something easy to do as a family...it would be awesome to hear that every family has a space in their home for ongoing puzzle work! So often, the kid who hates puzzles is the one who could benefit the most from solving one.



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