



WORDS OF WISDOM

ELIZA B. KIRKBRIDE SCHOOL
CLASS OF 2020

A PROJECT OF COSACOSA ART AT LARGE, INC.

Words of Wisdom Project Staff

GVGK Tang, COSACOSA Program Manager and Project Editor
Kimberly Niemela, COSACOSA Director and Teaching Artist
Catherine Memmolo, Lead Teacher and Project Coordinator, Kirkbride School
Erica Devose, Classroom Teacher, Kirkbride School
Thinh Thach, Classroom Teacher, Kirkbride School
Peter Metcalfe, Art Specialist, Kirkbride School
Rebecca Julien, Principal, Kirkbride School

Many Thanks

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Cover Art: *Knowledge & Power* (front), 9' x 8' and *Love & Liberty* (back), 9' x 10', 2019, resin and brass sculptures by Kirkbride 8th graders created in collaboration with COSACOSA.

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About the Project

Over the past five years, COSACOSA art at large, Inc. has partnered with the Eliza B. Kirkbride School to work with students on public art-making and multimedia story-telling projects. With in-school workshops unable to continue due to the COVID-19 outbreak, we created the *Words of Wisdom* project to support and engage students in building community during this difficult time. Eighth graders asked a relative or neighborhood elder for their "words of wisdom" – whether a guiding principle, a piece of advice, a personal remembrance, or an original story – and reflected on the ideas conveyed. The project encouraged graduating students to consider the ties that bind our past, present, and future – and to develop their skills and confidence as budding community leaders.

About Kirkbride

The Eliza B. Kirkbride School serves pre-K through eighth grade students in the Passyunk Square section of South Philadelphia. Kirkbride develops, nurtures, and educates children through the collective efforts of teachers, parents, and community members. Kirkbride students become responsible, independent, and literate citizens who are self-motivated, life-long learners, problem solvers, and critical thinkers.

About COSACOSA

COSACOSA art at large, Inc. is a non-profit organization creating new public art specific to the concerns of Philadelphia neighborhoods in direct, long-term collaboration with city residents. Since 1990, COSACOSA projects have brought together thousands of citizens of diverse backgrounds and differing abilities to learn about art, about each other, and about how to work together. Learn more at cosacosa.org

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Gunnar Banas

“Having no expectations means no disappointments”
—my mom

If you went into something with high expectations, and it's not what you thought it would be, you would be upset. This statement is relevant to my life because I expect too much from things and get let down. This is good advice.

Jovani Benitez

“Don't get stuck on things you can't control because life goes on, and you'll stay behind.”
—my older brother



Some things in life you'll just have to accept, even though you don't want to. This can be relevant to any time in your life, present or future. For example, in a few days, I find out that I have lost a family member, or, in the future, I may find out that a job I wanted rejected me. I think these “words of wisdom” are universal because in anybody's life, at some point, you'll have to do or accept something you don't want to.

Henry Chen

“Don't let your dreams be dreams. Chase your dreams. If you don't have a dream or goal, find one!”
—my sister



This is a good piece of advice because following my dream will affect my future. It is relevant to my life and decisions in the present and future because I will always have a goal to reach. These “words of wisdom” could be useful universally because there is always a point in life when you don't know what you're going to do, and remembering this statement could get someone to follow their dreams/goals.

Jennifer Chen

“There are always more solutions than there are problems in this world. If you ever get stuck on a problem and don't have a solution, just pause for a second. Take a step back and analyze the problem. Try to fully understand the problem before diving in. Those big, complex, and intimidating problems are really just a bunch of smaller, much simpler problems when examined closely. This is the basis of engineering and problem solving: applying basic principles to complex problems. Don't fret when one solution doesn't work, because there are many more solutions that you haven't discovered yet.”
—William Zheng (my older cousin)



I think this advice is really important because it tells me that I have to think about the problem carefully before doing something about it. It's relevant to my life and decisions because I need to think about what I want to do in the future. These “words of wisdom” could be useful to my peers, to my whole school, or to the world, because everyone needs to take a step back and think about problems carefully, then try to solve them.

Mattie Chen

“Grow up and be mature.”
—my older sister



I think this advice my sister gave me was influential because it reminded me that the older I get the more I will have to be mature, dependable, and responsible. It is relevant to my life and the decisions I make in the present day and in the future because I am considered to be childish. I tend to fool around a lot, even in serious situations, which is a bad habit and very embarrassing. Having my sister's advice with me helps me make smarter and helps me to make more mature choices.

I think these “words of wisdom” my sister gave me are universal and can be useful to my peers, school, community, and world because in certain situations they can look back and remind themselves to make good, responsible decisions. For example, everyone that I know has a fun, foolish, chill side, even adults. In a situation where you're doing a presentation, you would want to be a little more serious and focused. You wouldn't want to be fooling around because it makes a bad impression and your colleagues won't take you seriously. In situations like this, you have to set some boundaries. It is okay to let that side out every once in a while, but you have to know your limits. I hope this advice will help you the way it has helped me. Grow up and be mature!

Michelle Coyomatzi-Rodriguez

“Never give up, and keep trying; be your best at all times!”
—my mom



My mom always tells me this because all she wants is the best for me. She's always telling me to never give up and to keep going until I get it. It's not really relevant to every decision in the present, but she's always told me to be my best at all times and make good decisions in my life. These “words of wisdom” could help and be useful to other people, too, because all you have to do is never give up. Just saying and using those words will make people understand that they can get there if they keep trying.

Wendy Flores-Lopez

“A book weighs less than a shovel.”
—my dad



These words are nothing else but the truth. I think that because some people give up on school and start working, and I believe that later on in their lives they regret making that decision because most of the time, to become somebody in life, you must have a successful career.

These words are relevant in my life and the decisions I will make both in the present and in the future because my parents didn't have the opportunity that I have to have an education. My parents always have told me they want me to be better and to take advantage of this opportunity, to study and work hard so I wouldn't have to spend the rest of my life working for someone in a job I am unhappy in. This advice guides my life and the decisions I will make in the present and in the future because, one day, I will make the right decisions in life and have a successful career and make my parents proud of their daughter – all thanks to those words.

These “words of wisdom” are useful for everyone, but mostly for the younger generations because we are the future of the world. If we become successful, the world can stay in balance. There are never enough hard workers who can make a great impact to the world. These words are also very encouraging for children to think about what they want in life. So, think before you make a decision that could possibly change your whole life. I am choosing a book. What about you? Would you rather carry a book or a shovel?

Julio Hernandez

“You get what you focus on/attract, so always focus on the the best version of whatever you want.”
—my sister

I think my sister gave me this advice because she wants me to bring the best out of me, no matter what the circumstances are at the moment. I think it is relevant to my life and the decisions I make in the present and in the future because, like she said, always “go for the best version of yourself, always think positively, and chances are you'll be good in what you're doing at the moment.” I think these “words of wisdom” are universal because they can be passed on to friends and family. I also believe that this advice can be useful to my peers and everyone else because it will teach them to keep on trying and to believe in the best versions of themselves.

Also, I wanted to say thank you for the two great years with my four teachers. Thank you for teaching me many things that will move me on to high school. Thank you for helping me work hard and to keep on trying. Thank you for helping me pick my high schools. So now I'm taking a step into the future by going to high school. Thank you very much.

Lisbeth Hernandez

“Always try your best, and don't ever give up.”
—my mom



Always try your best at everything, never give up on something. You know that you can do it and learn from it. “Don't give up” means to try it again, to keep trying your best. Never stop believing yourself and your day will come. Focus on people that inspire you rather than the other people that annoy you. You will get success through the hard work you're putting effort into. Even if you make a mistake, you will learn from that mistake you made and try another way to fix it. Don't worry, if you make a mistake, because we all make mistakes.

In the future, you will learn the things you have done already and you never gave up on. You used that time on something that may come out great, knowing that you kept trying every day and got tired of it but still never gave up to it. You will accomplish your goals. Will this advice be useful to my whole school and community? Yes – all students can do whatever they put their mind to. They may find a math problem or something hard, and they'll give up on it, but they can repeat it and learn it again and try their best at it. It may take some time, but just know that you can do it, and never give up on something that you think you can't do – because you can.

Bryan Hernandez-Luna

“Always try your best at anything, even if it’s a sport that you’re not good at or a school subject that you’re not good at. Remember if you just feel like you want to give up on something, don’t – because you can get better at it. For example, I was not good at my first job because I did not know English, but I keep on learning little by little and look at me now! I know some English, and I can understand what people say.”

—my dad



I think my dad’s advice is important because I saw him struggle with speaking English, and I had to teach my dad some words that he couldn’t understand. It’s relevant to my life and my decisions in the present because I might have trouble with something, and I might feel like giving up. This advice my dad gave me of not giving up helps me to still try if I don’t really understand something. I think that these “words of wisdom” can be useful to my peers and to my whole school because there might be some people that keep struggling with something, and they can use this as advice.

Yibin Ho

“Tough times never last, but tough people do.”

— Dr. Robert Schuller

I think this advice is very valuable. I think it has a very powerful message. It’s saying that the unpleasant events that you experience never last, but that a person that is strong and tenacious will. Everyone goes through some difficulties in their life, and going through those situations is not easy. But if you don’t give up and you don’t relent, you will become a stronger and more resilient person. I think these “words of wisdom” could be useful to everyone. People could learn to persevere, and it would greatly benefit their lives and make them happier.

Raquel Kim

“Everybody is not your friend.”

—my mother

I think this advice is very true and helpful. There are a lot of people who rather be your fake friend and see your downfall instead of your success. It’s helpful to me because it made me see a clearer picture of people. Over the past three years, I’ve had a couple of fake friends. You know, they talked behind my back, such and such, but they gave me a lesson. I keep my circle small and, honestly, they have never turned their back on me.

It is relevant to my life because I’ve had plenty of people who I thought were my “friends” turn their backs on me because of what somebody else told them. That just shows me they were never really my friends from the start, you know what I mean? It is pretty relevant to the decisions I’ve made currently and that I will continue to make. Because of these words, I would rather have my little friend group support me than have 1,000 fake friends pretending to support me, but really waiting for me to fail. And as for the future, I will continue with these words in my life. No matter how old I am, I will always remember that everybody is NOT my FRIEND. Whether they say they are, I won’t believe it until I know truly in my heart and mind it’s true.

These words are very universal. Personally, I really do think my peers and school could find these words helpful. Why? Because at the school I stayed in for a couple years, I’ve seen many people turn their backs on those who called others their “friends.” They need to open their eyes more to see who’s really been there for them and has never left their side over something petty. Not only do I think it’s helpful for my peers and anyone in my school, I think that this advice is mostly helpful to my community and my city. You’re going to meet people and not know their intentions with you. There are people who are friends with somebody who doesn’t like you and their friend, who is now yours, is going to try to find everything about you and set you up. That happens so much in these streets; people get killed by somebody who they thought was their friend. The whole time, they were plotting against them, etc. And, YES, the whole world should take this advice, too. Just how it is in Philly is the same everywhere else. You never know what somebody’s intentions are towards you, whether they’re going to backstab you and all that. These “words of wisdom” will forever be in the front of my mind. So remember, everybody is NOT your FRIEND.

Andy La

“In the end, we only regret the chances we didn’t take.”
—Lewis Carroll



I think this advice is really good because I feel like people would be able to relate to it; that is why this quote is universal. If people miss out on an opportunity in the present/past, then it'll affect them in them in the future. I think that it is relevant to my life and the decisions I've made because, without the things I've done so far, I would've/could've been a different person. Example: video games. At the time, I had only played one game (and would've eventually given up on it). If I hadn't explored the game store (to find other games to play), then I could've been more stressed in real life. Plus, I wouldn't have socialized with new people if it weren't for playing/ finding other games.

Jennifer Li

“Stay positive no matter what happens.”
—my mom

We're in a tough time that I'm sure countless people are progressing through, and I, for one, am part of that community of people. Perhaps that's why my mom offered me the quote “stay positive no matter what will happen.” I think it's simple advice that many can understand, but it's also advice that not many can follow 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Being completely honest, if one devotes his/her everyday life to following this advice, it could be life-changing from the stress, infections, and moods someone is experiencing. My reason for this conclusion is, as intellectual beings, we can get hurt from the smallest form of criticism from social media, school, society, and even our close friends or family. Criticism arises from others' pride, greed, wrath, envy, lust, gluttony, jealousy, and sloth. These painful, individual memories can create an overwhelming amount of stress, but, as I said, if people remember the positive in life, then they won't have such a tough time.

As of right now, we can change our perspective in life and look at practically nothing and think “*Wow, it was spectacular.*” Of course, I am not an alchemist or god, so I can't make something out of nothing, but instead, out of this advice, I can make a decision to commit to myself to finding at least one good outcome from every situation. This mindset forces you into positivity. It's not just today that it is relevant, but tomorrow and all the days after. Having a positive mindset will increase your capability to do tasks and obtain a healthy lifestyle.

These “words of wisdom” can be universal and can be applied to anyone. Everyone can make use of this quote if they can think positively. However, thinking positively doesn't mean deleting all the negative thoughts, but rather to learn from the bad times and mistakes to improve as a person. And having completely positive thoughts is impossible, too. However, keep in mind that even in the worst moments, we can get through it from having just one positive thought.

Dell Lin

“Stress is not always a bad thing, but it shouldn't become a way of life.”
—my cousin

I think this advice tells me that having stress and pressure sometimes may not be a bad thing, and the stress may even motivate you to do better. But if you're always feeling stressed/tired, then you should evaluate and try to find another way of life or do something differently. I believe that this will be relevant to my life and help me make decisions now and in the future because, if I'm in a stressful situation one day, then I will think of this piece of advice and try to change all the stress into motivation to help me move further in life. I believe that these “words of wisdom” are universal, and they can be useful to everyone, I know many people around me who feel stressed at times, and I believe this can help them get through those hard times.

Brian Liu

“Eventually, you would have to be alone and you would have no one to help you with whatever problems you have, so learn to be self-sufficient.”
—Qin Liu (my mom)



Everyone will eventually have to be alone at some point and learning how to be self-sufficient will be helpful. I think my mom is saying this to prepare me for the future when I am grown up and moved out of my house. When you rely on someone or something, whether it is parents or funds, you will still have to create a way to be self-sufficient and get more independent so you will need less help.

Wenxin Liu

“Even if you're late it's okay, because at least you're there.”
—my guardian

I think this advice is relevant and universal because it tells people that it's better late than never. For example, if you are late to something, you shouldn't just skip it if you still can join in. That way you will at least experience something other than knowing it's something you missed.

Rosa Mam

“Respect your parents.”
—Julio Munoz (my dad)

Respecting your parents is an important factor. They've gone through many things and had many hardships, trying to give you the best life, trying to give you the life they weren't able to have when they were little. So at least you can show your gratitude by respecting them. This advice will be relevant to my life decisions and what I choose in the present. Personally, if I have a problem, I usually go to my parents to ask for advice on something I'm not knowledgeable about, and most of the time they guide me through it. This advice will greatly be relevant in the future, as I am still a child. I have so many things to learn, and my parents will be along by my side to help. These “words of wisdom” are universal, anybody can do this, and it can be very useful to my peers, my whole school, to the community, and to the world. Why? Because, respecting a parent will continue on with you, as you will become a parent, too.

Marvin Martinez

“Fight for what you believe is good, and don't let anyone destroy your dreams.”
—my mom



My mom gave me these “words of wisdom” because I'm her son, and she wants the best for me. This advice is relevant to my life, and these words are universal to everyone. One piece of advice I would give to future eighth graders is to take risks; don't be afraid to ask questions. If you ask a question and get it wrong, you just gain information. If you answer, and it is right, then you can feel good that you spoke up, and that someone else didn't take the chance.

Manzura Mohamad-Shafi

“Don't procrastinate.”
—my mom

I think my mom gave me this advice because it reminded me that it is better to do our tasks now rather than later. This advice is relevant to my life and to the decisions I make in the present and in the future, because I often do my work last minute. It is also hard and stressful to be not on time, which is a really bad habit and not good for my future. Having my mom's advice with me helps a lot and could guide me to make an even better future for myself.

Jonathan Ngadiman

“Work is not everything. You can have fun, too. But you have to work hard in order to have fun. If you work hard enough, you're able to make fun and work the same thing.”
—Anisa Widiah (my mom)



I think this advice is important because lots of us like to prioritize fun over work because it's easier to have fun than to do work. This is relevant to my life and the present and culture, because my mom knows I like to have fun more than doing work, so she wants to tell me this now before it's too late. These “words of wisdom” are universal. They are useful to my peers, my school, my community, and the whole world because everyone around the world likes to prioritize fun over work, and that can lead to a decrease mentally, financially, and physically. So if everyone follows these “words of wisdom,” everyone can have fun while they work.

Aliyah Nguyen

“Remember what you want to do and do what you know is right, for yourself and not for others.”
—my grandma



Many people judge and most times people change to fit in, and my grandma doesn't want me to do that. I think she told me this because many people always choose what their friends choose, and do what their friends do, and she wants me to do what I want to do, not everything that my friends do. This is relevant to my life because even if I can do everything to try and fit in, I won't actually fit in if it's not what I want. These “words of wisdom” can be universal. No one should change for others or do what they don't think is right and what they don't want. People should listen to what is right. You should do what you want to do. Don't play what your friends are playing; play what you want. Don't buy what you friends buy just because they tell you to. You should do what you want, play what you want.

Edgardo Osorio-Reynoso

“Don't drink alcohol at a young age.”
—my dad



I think the advice my dad gave me is good advice because alcohol is a very bad substance for teens and kids. It's not relevant in my life right now, but down the road, it will be. This advice will really help me make my decisions in the future, and also present times, because I really don't want to head down a wrong path. I think these “words of wisdom” are universal and can also be really useful for everyone in the world. I think this because, like I said before, alcohol is a very bad substance for teens and kids; it can harm your health and maybe even get you addicted.

Andy Paredes

“You should always work your hardest to be someone in life and strive to be a good person. Always stay on the right path. Although other things may seem tempting, they won't bring long-term happiness or satisfaction.”
—Joana Rosas (my mom)

I think that this is good advice because it's very relevant to many people, including myself. It will definitely affect me in the future as I know there will be times I'm tempted to try things that will eventually hurt me. I also know that sometimes I will be unmotivated to strive, but I have to remember that I need to be successful so I don't end up as a disappointment, not just to others, but to myself. I believe this is very universal advice, as I know many people who have potential but started being influenced by others who didn't make the greatest decisions. I know, as a community, we should always strive to be the best we can be and try to do what's the most beneficial for everyone, including things that aren't humans – like the Earth and everything on it.

Feny Parmar

“Keep running until you reach your goal, even when it feels unattainable. During the process, you will find failures that will help you grow as a person. Build your journey with happiness.”
—Riddhiben Parmar (my older sister)



Seeing that my sister has come this far in her life has inspired me to be something out of this world. Her words will be helping me on my journey to success and happiness in my life. She made me realize that failures and success are both equally part of our journey. As of now, my journey in life has just begun. I believe I will have failures, but, with her advice, I will know the hardships I face won't be negative aspects but positive ones. I learned from her that, no matter what, I will always run towards my goals. This advice can be helpful to others because they will have troubles and bad times that will bring them down on themselves. These words will motivate them in their journey. This can also be helpful advice for the community and world because everyone is growing into challenges that they will be facing throughout life. That is what life is really about. I aspire to find myself and help others with positivity towards my community.

David Puma

“Always chase your dreams, be your best, and follow your fear.”
—my brother

This advice is good because, in order to chase your dream, you have to face your fears and never give up on what you're doing. In the future, there will be challenges that I'll need to face because that is part of life. For example: school assignments, making sure family is good, and more. These “words of wisdom” can be useful to some people because maybe, in the future, they might have to face some challenges as they get older, too.

Stephanie Ramirez

"If you want to do something, do it, because if you don't you'll never know what would have happened and you might regret it."

— Jessica Ramirez (my mom)



My mom said this to me two years ago, and it still is by far the best quote I've been given. This advice made me get out of my comfort zone and do things I always wanted to do but didn't think I would ever do. Whenever I want to do something that I'm afraid to do, I just jump right in because the only thing stopping me is the fear of a bad outcome. If it does end up being a bad outcome it doesn't matter because, in the end, it will make a good story. The concept of this quote isn't to do something to make a fool of yourself, but to do something that will make YOU happy or to do something with your life that matters. Any person could use this advice. Life is too short. Don't be afraid of what you want to do.

Norma Ramos

"Keep going and don't let challenges stop you."

—Anonymous



Dreams can come true. This is important because I know my dream of becoming a nurse can come true. I know that I should not give up. No one should give up their dreams. Dreams do come true. Do not become discouraged; you should keep trying.

Christopher Ray

"Always be an individual!!! Don't let your friends or anyone tell you to do things that you know are wrong. Stand up and do the right things, even when others are doing bad things or something you know is not right. Be a star!!!!"

—my mom



I think my mom's advice is to stand up for myself and, when someone is doing something bad, I shouldn't do it. Even if my friends tell me to do something bad like not going to class or stealing something, I shouldn't do it. I think this advice would help in the future at high school. When I am in high school, I can make my own choices, like what to do and what not to do. When I graduate from high school, I could use my mom's advice to help me get a good job. I think that this advice can help a lot of people. It could help people make the right choices, like not to steal something from someone, or not to skip school, or what not to wear to work or at a 5-star restaurant.

Angel Ruiz-Lopez

"Don't pester others. It causes uncertainty whether to trust you."

—my father

I think this advice was given to me because it would be of use to me in the future and the present. Not bothering people and helping them creates trust. Bothering creates distrust and makes it hard for others to trust you. Also, they don't know if you are just there to bother them or really trying to help them, because they become accustomed to being bothered by you. This also helps in the future when in a work environment. Having co-workers' help benefits you because you have trust with them. Still, this also helps in the present because having trust with anyone helps you. Exasperating just anyone that can help you is not good for you or for them. That is why I think this advice was given to me.

Nathaniel Santoso

“Always pursue your goals.”
—Eddy Santoso (my father)

I think that this advice seems pretty great. What makes this advice great is that if you achieve your goals, you can get that feeling of satisfaction and happiness. It's the satisfaction of completing something that many others may have not completed yet, and it could become a memorable moment for you to show to your friends and family. Is the advice relevant to the decisions I make in the present? Yes, it is as it helps me progress as a person as time passes. And how does it help me? Well, you see, it teaches me persistence, to never give up, no matter how difficult things can get. There will be times when you lose motivation, but as long as you keep trying, you will be able to get through them and score that goal. And for the future, I can see myself finishing one goal and starting another one. Though it might be difficult, if it's possible, I can do it. Honestly, I am pretty sure these “words of wisdom” are universal. All a person needs is the perseverance and creative thinking to be able to use this advice, and you should develop those two important character traits in order to pursue your goals.

Liliana Sary

“Worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles it takes away today's peace.”
—my dad

When my dad was given this advice, he thought of mistakes or things he had done that not only affected him but affected his loved ones, too. These “words of wisdom” are relevant to my life from present to future because they are motivational. Something I might be stressing over will fade away, and tomorrow is a new day with a different problem. I believe these “words of wisdom” are universal. They can help me and my peers in high school and all throughout our lives. Not only will this advice help me and my peers, it can also help those in my community. With society the way it is, we all need hope, especially with the pandemic.

Noemi Serrano

“Your mind comes first before grades. Remember that every once in a while, you need to stop and breathe. It may get harder in the future, but always put yourself first.”
—Anabelen Serrano (my older sister)

I think that this advice is something that's very important to remember, especially as I'm growing up and going into high school. Many people get lost in trying to get good grades, letting themselves be defined by grades, and ending up losing who they are. This is very relevant to my life and to the decisions I make, and it affects me in how I want to continue my life. When talking about the future, it seems that, as I get older, more will be expected from me. These “words of wisdom” are universal and could be very useful to others. Many teenagers are always stressing about school when they have other important things to worry about, especially through this pandemic. We all need to just stop what we are doing and reflect, and ask ourselves if the situation we are in is making us happy.

Guangxin Su

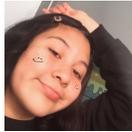
“I would say learning how to balance stuff is the most useful thing you can learn. It's important to dream big, but you have to stay real. It's important to take care of yourself, but you need to learn how to take care of others, too. It's important to be happy, but feeling sad and angry can be good, too. It's important to slow down and take breaks, but you need to know when to work hard and be motivated. When you learn how to balance, everything becomes a lot easier.”
—my cousin



I think the advice that my cousin has given is meaningful to me because it is very realistic. When you learn how to balance your life, everything will become a lot easier. It is relevant to my life and future because I'm not a disciplined person. However, my cousin's words help me understand that learning to balance life makes everything a little easier. It helped me to understand that I don't have to do the same thing all the time. I can also try something new so that I won't be so tired. Also these “words of wisdom” apply to other people, to my school, or to the community, too, because it is helpful advice to those whose lives are messy.

Jaretzi Tellez-Perez

“It’s okay to take risks; right or wrong, you at least learn from the outcome.”
—Ana (my sister)



You only live once. You have got to face any risk and take it. I honestly do think that this is relevant to my life and the decisions I make in the present and the future, because it can create personality and build character. This advice can be useful because many people are afraid to step out of their comfort zone. But they should take a risk, because it could sometimes lead to better things.

Nguyen Tran

“There will be bad times and good times all through our lives.
We have to learn from our mistakes and become stronger people.”
—Jasper Pham

I think this advice implies that, in life, nothing is going to be the way we want to it be all the time, and we just have to accept that. To have a balanced, healthy society, there will be good, and there will be bad. Without failure in life, we won’t be able learn from our mistakes and become stronger.

This advice is relevant to my life decisions both now and in the future. There are occasions in the past when, due to failure, I gave up working on a specific problem. I became irritated that this particular situation did not go the way I wanted it to go. Therefore, I gave up on everything I’d started on and couldn’t care less about the negative outcomes. However, this advice made me realize that, if I gave up, I wouldn’t be able to grow and learn how to solve my problems in the future, and would run away from my responsibilities. Instead of doing that, I have to be strong and face my problems. This will help me in the future with work and dealing with obstacles that I encounter.

This advice is universal to everyone around our school and in the community, since it describes the challenges that most of us face daily and are not strong enough to handle. Why do we run away from these challenges? Because we are scared of the negative outcomes. We don’t try to think of a solution but, rather, run away to our comfort zone. In doing so, we won’t learn and become stronger.

Aiden Walatt

“Do your best, try your hardest, and never give up.”
—Lem Lorn (my mom)

I think that this advice is something that I could use and think about in the future, as well as being very much relevant to my life in the present. Sometimes in life there are going to be times when you think things are too hard and that you will never accomplish them. This is when this piece of advice comes in. You are going to have to try your hardest and do your best. No matter what happens, you will never know the outcome until you try. I think these “words of wisdom” are universal as many people are stuck in this situation and have a mindset that, if something is too hard, they won’t be able to accomplish their goal. Something you have to think of is that, in life, things like this are going to come along. The most you can do is to try your hardest. Like I stated before, you will not know the outcome of something until you try to accomplish it.

Joseph Wu

“Do your classwork/homework, get a good grade, research your high school
and make a good choice for yourself. Don’t get stressed out next
school year when you apply to high school.”
—Steven (my brother)



My brother’s advice is that doing these things when we started 8th grade wasn’t that easy, but when you do start your high school essays and show up to your interview or audition, don’t stress. It is very relevant to my journey this year, and now I feel like I’ll be starting a great new journey after I graduate 8th grade. This advice can apply to others because, when we were in 7th grade, teachers would tell us that they were committed to us getting into good high schools and meeting their requirements because they wanted us to have good choices.



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Jovani Benitez	Aliyah A. Nguyen
Henry Chen	Janet Ortiz
Jennifer Chen	Edgardo Osorio-Reynoso
Mattie Chen	Andy Paredes
Barron Chov	Feny Parmar
Michelle Coyomatzi-Rodriquez	David Puma
Adam Flores	Gianna M. Quebedo
Wendy Flores-Lopez	Stephanie Ramirez
Tysir R. Ganges	Norma E. Ramos
Julio C. Hernandez	Christopher J. Ray
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Lisbeth Hernandez-Ramirez	Angel D. Ruiz-Lopez
Jose Hernandez-Sauce	Sara F. Samuels
Alexa Herrera	Nathaniel Santoso
Yibin Ho	Liliana Sary
Cindy Huang	Noemi Serrano
Raquel Kim	Guangxin Su
Andy La	Jaretzi Tellez-Perez
Hangwei Li	Nguyen N. Tran
Jennifer Li	Mandy Tu
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