

Unit 3 School days

The School of the Future



Ehrman Crest is a school in Pennsylvania. Its big opening was in August. Adults and students worked together on its creative design.

The school's clever design includes mathematical patterns on the floors and giant magnetic maps on the walls. Some classrooms connect to the outdoors. There's also a big spiral ramp. "We simply wanted to replace an 84-year-old building," Seneca Valley School District superintendent Tracy Vitale said.

That building needed too much work. "We said, 'This is our chance to build the school of the future.' And that's what we did."

Designing Together

Adults decided about the basics. Then kids shared ideas in "visioning sessions." They got lots of different materials to create their own storyboards. These included photos, pinecones, a plastic flamingo, and different coloured cards.

The kids also wanted the environment to be fun. The result is a school with all the excitement of a children's museum.



Building Buzz



Matthew Palano, a sixth grader at Ehrman Crest, is a big fan of the playground. "It's huge!" he says. He likes the desks too. They're shaped like fish!"

"It's such a proud feeling, walking into our school," teacher Ryan Bonicky says. "There's definitely a buzz going around. The kids are just excited about learning."

Ehrman Crest hopes that the physical space will improve student achievement. "We built our dream school," Vitale says. "I think the lessons learned here are 'Be creative as adults' and 'Listen to children.'"

Adapted from: <https://www.timeforkids.com/g34/?text=School+of+the+future>

Exercise 1: Choose the best answer from (a), (b) or (c).

1. Designing Ehrman Crest involved _____.
 - a) students only
 - b) students and their parents
 - c) students and adults
2. The reason for rebuilding Ehrman Crest was to _____.
 - a) connect it to the environment
 - b) change the furniture
 - c) turn an old building into a new one
3. Students created their own stories during _____.
 - a) visioning sessions
 - b) museum visits
 - c) art lessons
4. Why is Ryan Bonicky feeling proud?
 - a) Because students are excited about learning.
 - b) Because of the school's modern atmosphere.
 - c) Because the school has changed physically.
5. The aim of the school's physical space is to _____.
 - a) make students feel more comfortable
 - b) improve students' learning
 - c) build strong student-teacher relationships

Exercise 2: Read the passage again and answer the questions.

1. Why did kids use different materials to create storyboards?

2. In the last paragraph of the passage, Tracy Vitale says that designing Ehrman Crest has taught them important lessons.
Which lessons does she refer to?

Exercise 3: Read the three texts below and choose the best answer for each question.

Three teachers tell us why they love their jobs.

A. Andrew:

'I took over from the art teacher who inspired me when she retired, and I actually have her old job. She was a real character. She gave us art history lessons using photos she had taken herself. Teaching has so many rewarding aspects, and for me, it has never been about the kids getting the amazing grades. Yes, that's a lovely bonus, but when you're working with kids and they realise they have managed to create, design or draw something that they thought was not possible, it's that kind of reaction in them that makes it rewarding.'

B. Sophie:

'I am a professional Spanish teacher, and I am passionate about my culture and my country. It is a wonderful experience for me to teach my language to different people of all ages. I enjoy helping them to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding of a different language and culture. But it is hard work and needs a lot of energy and commitment to do the job well.'

C. Kai:

'I am a Science Teacher in my second year of teaching at a secondary school. My students this year will sit for exams to get into university, so most of them work very hard to get good grades. I was working in a big company in London when a position to teach came up. I was ready for a change, but I didn't know if I would like it. Luckily, I've never looked back. For me, the most rewarding part of teaching is the moment when you realise a student has really understood. You can see it in their face and that really is such a fantastic highlight of the job.'

		Andrew	Sophie	Kai
1	Who was surprised to find out how much work teachers have to do?	A	B	C
2	Who didn't plan to be a teacher?	A	B	C
3	Whose pupils have to pass important exams?	A	B	C
4	Who thinks tests are not that important for students' learning?	A	B	C
5	Who enjoys teaching the culture?	A	B	C
6	Who teaches different age groups?	A	B	C
7	Who feels proud when students achieved something they never thought it would be possible?	A	B	C

Write an email to your classmate.

- say where you want to meet.
- say what time you want to meet.
- say what books you would like to borrow from the library.

[illegible]

<p style="text-align: center;">Unit 3 School days</p> <p>Prepared by: Anna-Maria Andreou Level CEFR A1+</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Answer Key!</p>
<p>Exercise 1</p> <p>1. c, 2. c, 3. a, 4. a, 5. b</p> <p>Exercise 2</p> <p>1. To create their own storyboards/dream school. 2. Students should be creative like adults and people should listen to children's ideas.</p> <p>Exercise 3</p> <p>1. B, 2. C, 3. C. 4.A, 5. B, 6. B, 7. A</p>