

The background is a light gray crumpled paper texture. It features four large, colorful brushstroke-like shapes: a blue one in the top-left corner, a purple one in the top-right corner, a yellow one in the bottom-left corner, and a blue one in the bottom-right corner.

***WESTLAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL***

***6TH GRADE***

***WOO HOO WELCOME***

# ***TOPICS FOR THOUGHT***

1. Who is here to help? What is here to help?
2. The Big Picture - The Plan, The Portrait, The Mission
3. Supporting Students Throughout Middle School - The Universities
4. Messages We Share With Students
5. Middle School Bottom Lines, Pitfalls, and Success
6. Thinking About Adolescence - “The Why”
7. Resources and Food for Thought
8. Questions and Answers



## PTA year at a glance

22-23 SCHOOL YEAR

### AUG

Bagel & "Locks" (incoming  
6th grade)  
  
Summer Fundraiser (Spirit  
Wear)

### SEP

Back to School  
6th Grade Woo Hoo Welcome  
Welcome back Breakfast (Staff)

### OCT

New Student Council  
Recognition  
  
Spirit Week  
Halloween

### NOV

Fall Fundraiser  
Fall Festival

### DEC

Holiday Boutique  
Reflections submissions  
Multicultural Celebration

### JAN

Winter Festival

### FEB

Winter Fundraiser

### MAR

6th Grade Glow up Dance  
Pi Day  
St. Patrick's Day  
Career Day

### APR

7th Grade Spring Fling  
Spring Fundraiser

### MAY

8th Grade Trip  
Food Truck Friday  
Teacher Appreciation  
Week  
Cinco De Mayo

### JUN

8th Grade Yearbook & T-  
Shirt Party  
8th Grade Graduation/Dance  
Color Run  
Field Days  
Volunteer Ceremony

### JUL

Enjoy your Summer break

# The Awesome PTA!!!

***GET INVOLVED***



# ***WHO IS HERE TO HELP?***

## ***ADMINISTRATORS***

Superintendent Dr. Giarrizzo  
Director of Curriculum Dr. Bronstein  
Director of PPS Joann Vaccaro  
Principal Anthony Mungioli  
Assistant Principal Christine Parrottino

## ***FACULTY AND STAFF***

Classroom  
Specialists  
Aides  
Monitors  
Secretaries

## ***PULSE***

Guidance Counselors  
School Psychologist  
Social Worker  
Nurse  
Greeter

## ***PARTNERS***

Mount Pleasant Police Dept.  
Educational Foundation  
Westlake Athletic Club

## ***FAMILIES***

Other Parents  
Other Students

## ***TEAMS***

Building Leadership Team

# ***WHAT IS HERE TO HELP?***

## ***THE PORTAL***

Graded Assignments, Quizzes,  
Tests, and Projects

## ***SCHOOL MESSENGER***

WMS Family Updates  
Email Blasts

## ***GOOGLE CLASSROOM***

Student Classes, Resources,  
Assignments

## ***SCHOOL WEBSITE***

Information and Links

## ***PTA MEETINGS***

Book Study

## ***PARENT CONFERENCES***

As Needed  
Back-To-School 9/22  
PTC 11/17



# MOUNT PLEASANT

Central School District

## PORTRAIT OF A MOUNT PLEASANT LEARNER



EDUCATING EACH STUDENT TODAY FOR ENDLESS  
POSSIBILITIES TOMORROW



## Middle Years Programme

### Welcome to Westlake Middle School An IB World School

- Supports Teachers in Developing Teaching and Learning
- Challenging Framework - Intellectual Interest and Risk Taking
- Inquiry Based, Conceptual, Connected, Balanced, Well-Rounded
- Real World Connections
- Standards Based
  - Critical Thinking
  - Communication
  - Research
- Describes an Ideal Learner
- Service Learning - 8th Grade Community Leadership Project



# THE “UNIVERSITIES” - KEEPING IT CONNECTED

## 6TH GRADE UNIVERSITY

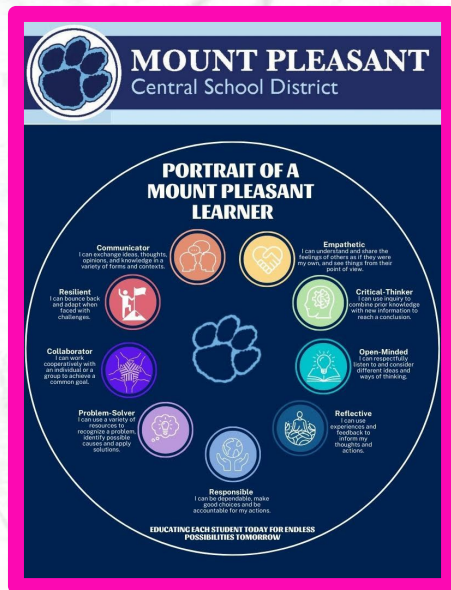
Four Days In September For The “BIG” Transition

## 7TH GRADE UNIVERSITY

Spiraled In Core Subjects: Goal Setting, Study Skills, Organization, Time Management

## 8TH GRADE UNIVERSITY

Increasing Complexity, Use of Naviance, and Connections to Westlake High School



# ***6TH GRADE UNIVERSITY***

**01**

Building Tours  
"What ifs."  
Schedules  
Team Building  
Dining Room/Recess  
Lockers

**02**

Mission Statement  
Universal Procedures  
Study Skills  
Technology- Google Classroom

**03**

Code of Conduct  
Self Advocacy  
Study Skills  
Team Building

**04**

Games  
Read-In  
Picnic  
Movie

**05**

Westlake Foundations:  
Support continues every other  
day for half a year





What are students  
hearing from us?

# DEFINING LEARNING SUCCESS

- Empathetic
- Open Minded
- Communicator
- Collaborator
- Critical Thinker
- Problem Solver
- Responsible
- Reflective
- Resilient



**MOUNT PLEASANT**  
Central School District

## PORTRAIT OF A MOUNT PLEASANT LEARNER



EDUCATING EACH STUDENT TODAY FOR ENDLESS  
POSSIBILITIES TOMORROW



# Code of Conduct and DASA

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**The What, The How, and The Why**





# Conflict

---

A shared disagreement, dispute, argument, bad feelings, or negative actions between two people or groups...

## Conflict and Bullying

- In a conflict both sides can feel right.
- In a conflict both sides can be wrong.
- Sometimes, we need to move past right and wrong.
- Not all conflict is bullying.

## Conflict

I can be upset with another student  
**AND** I can be responsible for my behavior.

I can understand how my actions affected  
another student **AND** I can feel that another  
student hurt me.



# 4 Types of BULLYING

## PHYSICAL Bullying

Hitting, kicking,  
slapping, pinching,  
spitting, tripping,  
pushing, blocking

Stealing or destroying  
someone's possessions

Making mean or rude  
hand gestures

Touching in unwanted  
and inappropriate ways

## VERBAL Bullying

Name calling

Insults

Teasing

Intimidation

Homophobic or  
racist remarks

Inappropriate sexual  
comments

Taunting

Threatening to  
cause harm

## SOCIAL Bullying

Lying and spreading  
rumors

Leaving someone out  
on purpose

Telling others not to be  
friends with someone

Embarrassing  
someone in public

Damaging someone's  
social reputation or  
relationships

## CYBER Bullying

Posting/sending  
hurtful texts emails or  
posts, images or  
videos

Making online threats

Imitating others online  
or using their log-in

Deliberately excluding  
others online

Spreading nasty  
gossip or rumors  
online

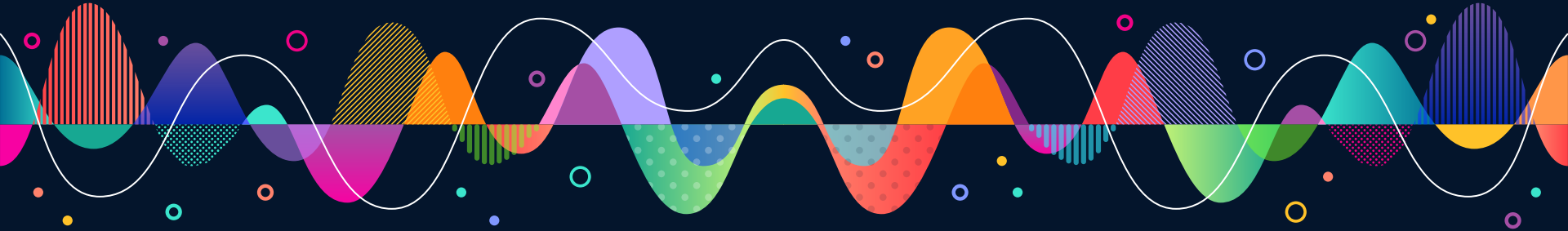
**Just  
Kidding!**

Was it hurtful?  
Was it at anyone's expense?  
What does a person's body  
language tell you?



- ▷ Race or ethnicity
- ▷ Color of skin
- ▷ Weight or height
- ▷ How someone appears
- ▷ National origin or ethnicity
- ▷ Where someone is from
- ▷ Religion or religious practice
- ▷ What someone believes in
- ▷ Disability
- ▷ What special needs someone has
- ▷ Sexual orientation
- ▷ Who someone likes
- ▷ Gender, gender identity or sex
- ▷ Who someone is

## In-Person or Online





**WHAT YOU DO...**  
**WHAT YOU SAY...**  
**THE CHOICES YOU MAKE...**  
**THE ACTIONS YOU TAKE...**  
**HOW YOU TREAT OTHERS...**  
**THE RESPONSIBILITY YOU TAKE...**  
**MATTER!**





# Choices -> Actions - Consequence

Choices	Action	Consequence?
Someone called you a name	Do the same thing back immediately Stay mad - retaliate the next day Tell your friends about it Walk away - Ignore the person Tell the person you don't like it Tell your parent Tell a teacher	Is a consequence a punishment?
Someone put their hands on you		Am I in trouble or am I learning?
Someone sent you an inappropriate text message		Is my behavior harming others?
Someone threatened you		Will my behavior change?
Someone excluded you		Will I help someone else's behavior change?

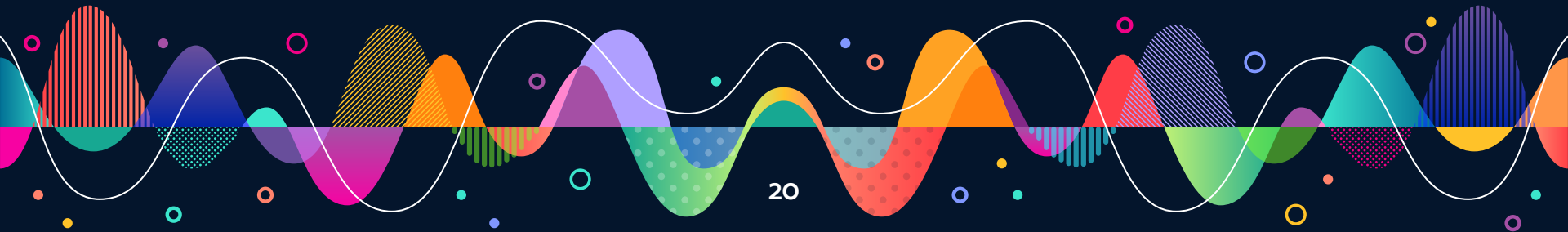


Receive The Messages



# Should Middle School Student Use Social Media?

Almost all social networking sites only allow users aged 13 and over. This age limit has been dictated by US law through the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA).



# Understanding That You Are A Digital Citizen

- ▶ To know that you need positive actions in this 'community' matter as well.
  - ▶ To know that everything you post online may be public.
  - ▶ To know that everything you post online may be permanent.
  - ▶ To know that everything you post online may be traceable.
  - ▶ To know that everything you post online reflects who you are.
- 
- ▶ **What can happen if a student misuses technology or social media?**



# CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Electronic devices including cell phones, wearable devices such as smartwatches, iPads, etc., headphones and in-ear headphones such as earbuds must be turned off and stored in a student's backpack when they enter the school building. Cell phones can be turned on and used immediately after dismissal from school. If a student uses or carries an electronic device during the school day, it will be confiscated and returned only to a parent.

# STUDENT HANDBOOK AND CODE OF CONDUCT

**What you  
say matters.**





**TAKE  
A DEEP  
BREATH**

## **Understanding Our Role In The Discipline Process**

**It is our responsibility to understand the actions that occurred and how they impacted those involved.**

**It is our responsibility to help students learn from what occurred to avoid it happening again.**



**Thinking about  
Middle School and Adolescence**

**Why?**

**“Because I said so!”**

**I’m in Trouble?**

# Why?

“Because we need to  
keep you safe and help  
you grow”

# ***MIDDLE SCHOOL BOTTOM LINES***

1. Move safely throughout the school
2. Respect personal space
3. Use respectful language (DASA)
4. Use mistakes as learning experiences
5. Maximizing The Learning Environment

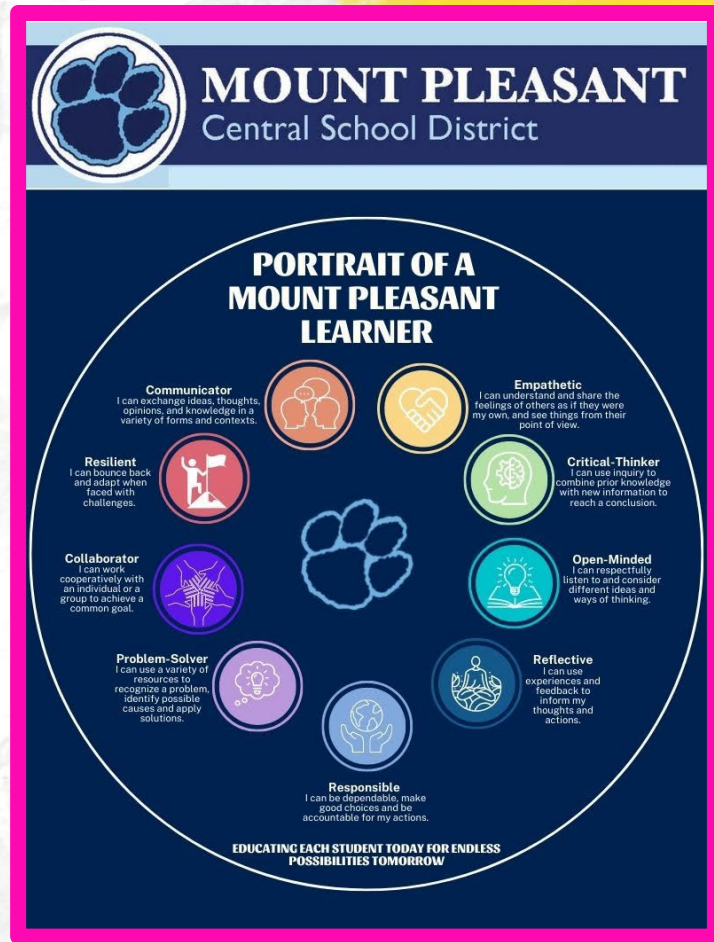
# ***MIDDLE SCHOOL PITFALLS***

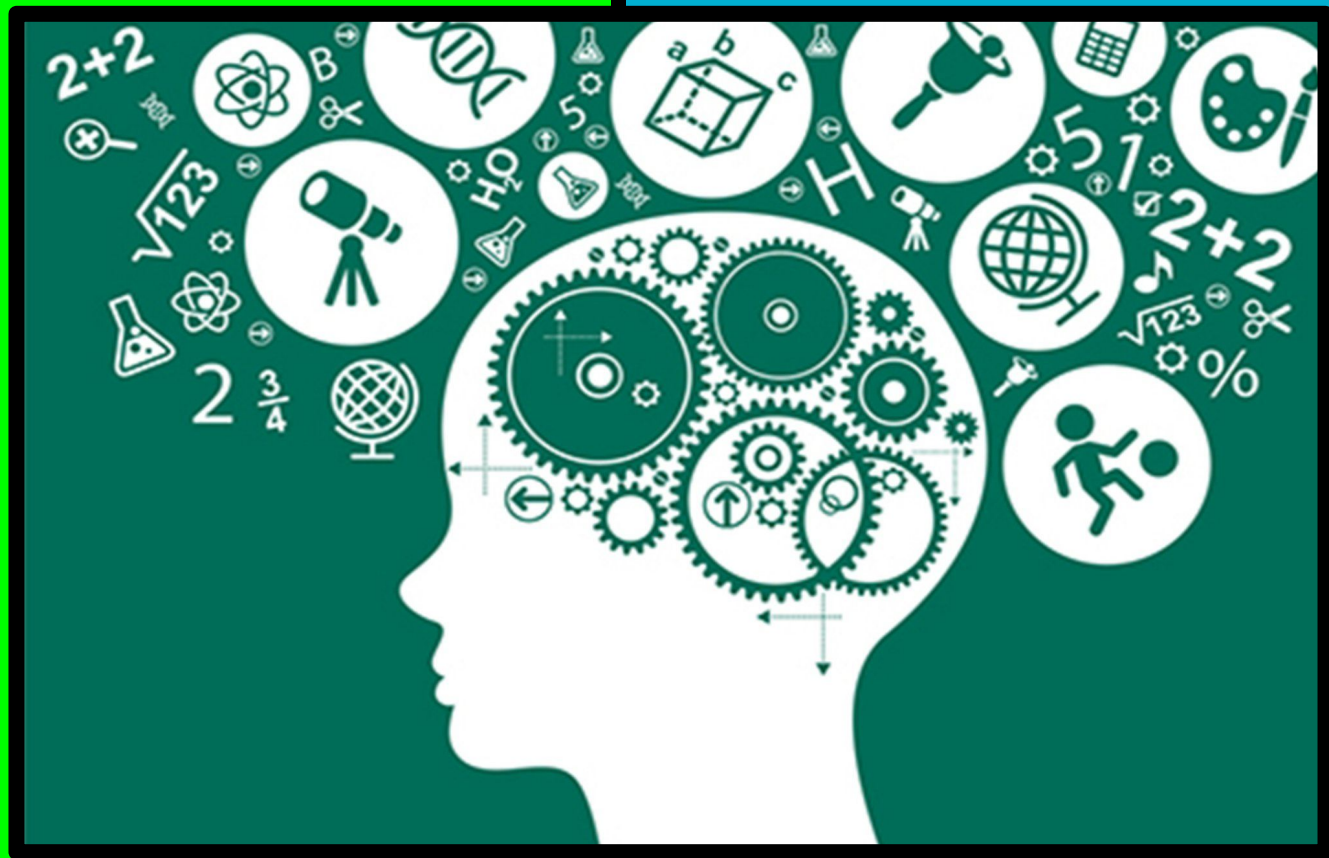
1. Making excuses and not taking responsibility
2. Following negative examples
3. Focusing on the actions of others and not our own
4. Behaving differently in structured vs.unstructured times
5. Misusing, not understanding, or not being ready for Social Media

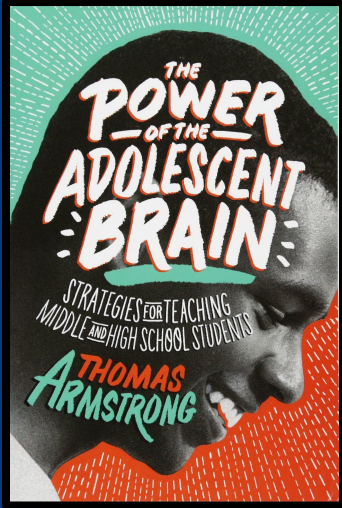


# MIDDLE SCHOOL SUCCESS

- Stay engaged by listening, speaking, reading, writing.
- Be curious, ask questions, wonder.
- Make connections between different subjects and real life.
- Take interest in new learning and opportunities.
- Work hard, take responsibility, and become more independent.
- Work together to solve problems.
- Try to understand how others feel; understand other points of view.
- Take healthy risks and try new things.
- Reflect on what you did and how you can improve.
- Focus on progress and know you have the tools to grow.







*"At around the age of 11 for girls...12 for boys, there is a short period when the amount of grey matter increases again...during adolescence, the brain undergoes a second round of pruning"*

The adolescent brain is being “rewired” and Executive Functioning Areas Are Impacted –

- Planning
- Decision Making
- Setting Priorities
- Inhibiting Impulses
- Appropriate Behavior

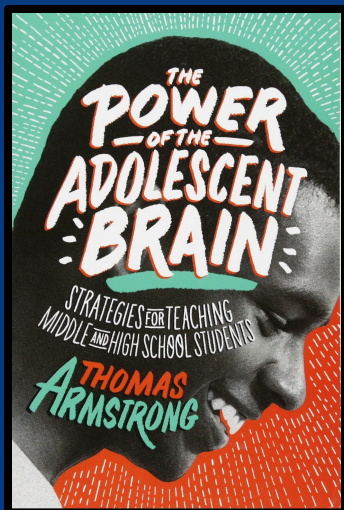
The adolescent brain is primed for big rewards which increases risk taking.

Rewards are amplified by social acceptance from their peers [not boring adults].

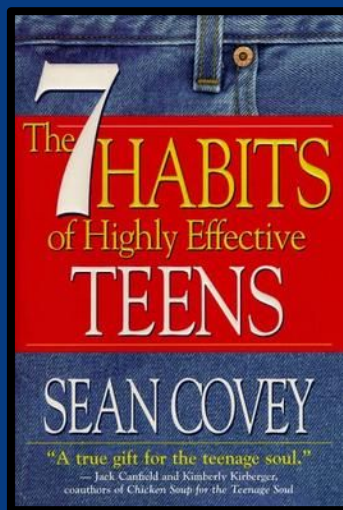
**RISK TAKING IS AN ESSENTIAL TRAIT THAT HELPS LAUNCH ADOLESCENTS OUT OF THE PARENTAL NEST AND INTO THE WORLD.**

Encourage appropriate and healthy risk taking. Join a club. Try a new sport. Do something adventurous as a family.

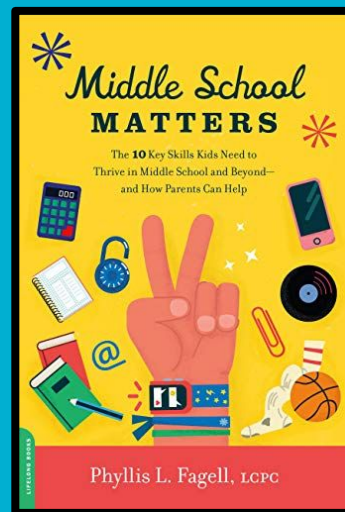




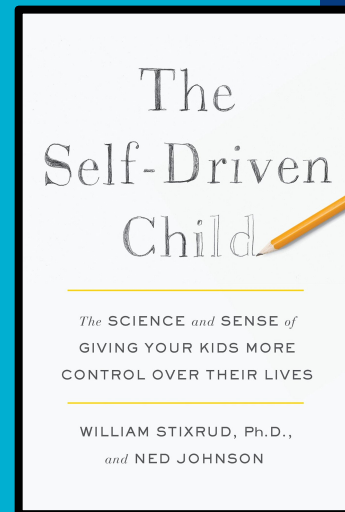
*"At around the age of 11 for girls...12 for boys, there is a short period when the amount of grey matter increases again...during adolescence, the brain undergoes a second round of pruning"*



*Habits are things we do repeatedly...our habits will either make or break us. Luckily, you are stronger than your habits.*



*Parents of Middle Schoolers can't afford to sit this phase out...It's the ideal time to teach [skills], and foster integrity and healthy risk taking.*



*We can't really control our kids—and doing so shouldn't be our goal...Without a healthy sense of control, kids feel powerless and overwhelmed.*