

Dear Families/Caregivers,

Knowing how the brain processes information helps students feel more in control of their learning. Research in the recent years has determined that the brain is much more flexible and capable of learning new things than once believed.

Understanding how we learn is an important part of understanding ourselves. We learned that creativity is thinking about something in a new way. Thinking creatively strengthens our natural curiosity and imagination and helps us solve problems. We can **CREATE** something new when we:

- **Combine**
- **Elaborate**
- **Adapt**
- **Tweak**
- **Eliminate**

Here are some things you can do to help your child use creative thinking:

- Let your child plan a meal and shop with him or her and cook a new meal together. Encourage your child to try something new.
- Take your child to new places and explore (e.g. hiking, new parks, new lakes, etc.)
- Take your child to a museum and talk to your child about the creative elements that he or she observes.
- Encourage your child to play an instrument, or start an art project, or participate in dance or theatre to expand his or her creative thinking.

Your child's brain is a muscle that constantly grows by taking in new information and learning new things. Thinking creatively builds problem solving, perspective taking, and other critical thinking skills.

Sincerely,

Your Child's Teacher