



About our project

We tested a village model to shift math narratives via near-peers, caregivers, and student tools. Messages normalized confusion, treated mistakes as data, valued help-seeking over speed, and linked math to life. We tracked shifts among 21 FL middle-schoolers using reflections and AI.



Learn more about MyVillage Project and the "Village of Confidence"



See (student-built) math confidence model and how they used community affirmations + confidence labeling to measure narrative shift.

Top learnings about impact



• Confidence gains (n=21):

Confidence increased across the cohort. At baseline, ~50% of students were not confident, ~30% were somewhat confident, and ~20% were confident. After the intervention, ~60% were coded confident, ~40% not confident, and no students remained "somewhat confident."

• Behavioral shifts:

Narrative change showed up as behavior change. All students demonstrated improved self-awareness, used mistakes to learn, persisted after mistakes, and increased help-seeking. Fourteen students (67%) explicitly rejected the belief that speed equals intelligence.

• Speed reframing:

Although not an original Math Narrative Project belief target, student listening revealed many participants equated speed with intelligence. Early focus groups showed students felt "behind" or "bad at math" when they needed more time, linking pace—not understanding—to self-worth. We added messaging that decoupled speed from capability (e.g., "being good at math isn't the same as being fast"), reducing time pressure and shame while supporting persistence, question-asking, and learning from mistakes.

• High-leverage themes:

Normalize struggle, reframe mistakes as information (not shame), reduce speed pressure, and connect math to identity, goals, and independence.

• Delivery & reinforcement:

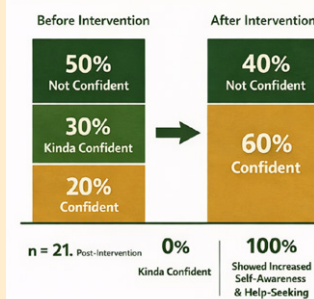
Near-peer messengers increased credibility and moved students from silence to question-asking and persistence. Consistent reinforcement across texts, caregivers, community partners, and games increased stickiness.

Top Themes for Narrative Change



[3*source]

Confidence Shift Across the Cohort



Top learnings about process



Build a shared message set first, then repeat it weekly across channels (near-peer texts + caregiver prompts) so students hear consistent cues in different contexts. Pair narrative work with lightweight measurement—pre/post reflections and a simple confidence-labeling model—for fast feedback without burdening staff. **Key lesson: instrumentation is the heavy lift; once set up, insights are easy to iterate.**