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oftentimes schools today can be trying to put students into a box that there's only one path towards success I think rather than forcing them to choose and ninth-grade what they want to do with their lives latitude is really about giving students a chance to do a lot of deep creative exploration throughout their time in high school to expand their sense of possibility and so at the heart of latitude is really engaging students in purposeful projects that where students feel like they're really making an impact what that looks like in the classroom is students working in small groups on various pieces of projects that are grounded in really understanding the important issues that exist in Oakland as well as helping students to broaden their sense of understanding about what they could do in their future for example in their design and engineering class students are working on designing an autonomous vehicle that can support a senior citizen who has recently lost their driver's license similarly our tenth graders are building their own tiny houses to be part of the first tiny house village for homeless youth in the Bay Area the freshman class for this year they are working on the podcast that is around homelessness in Oakland talking and interviewing changemakers in Oakland about the impact they making and once there start interviewing people once there start talking and really believe in I can make a change for my community and they have a sense of self-worth and value and they go back home into their community saying my work is out there in the world creating change our tagline reads that the city

is our school because we invite community members into our school as well as go out into the community as a community partnerships lead I work with the staff as well as our community partners to arrange for site visits in ninth grade some are big companies some are individual practitioners and this gives students a chance to get to know how different adults have navigated their careers how they've found their purpose it's really important to us that our students are developing their own compass and having a sense of what direction they want to go in in life not just from an abstract place but from having met real people from a lot of different walks of life and be able to understand how they navigated their journeys I think relationships are the core of everything I think the relationships that we have with other humans allow us to challenge ourselves and to take risks so relationships are at the heart of what we do and that exists through a couple of different places one of them is through advisory and so students are in an advisory with about 18 other students and two advisers and those advisers stay with them over the course of their four years advisory that is my favorite part of the day advisory is kind of like your small home within the school you are not just a number you are not anonymous which can be really hard for some of our students we know you we know your families the communities that you come from and because we know you deeply we are able to I think approach students both personally and academically with a sense of respect and love and care Hey do you need some support in academics we need support which are emotions and we

are here to help you out all around I
think our hope for each of our students
is that they reach their greatest
potential in whatever realm they most
want to make an impact in latitude it's
a great fit for any student who wants to
be creative who's a little bit more
out-of-the-box so I think that if you
are a student who doesn't want to wait
until after college for your life to
really start and you want to be able to
tackle meaningful creative projects now
while you're in high school
laddered who is a place where that can
happen
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