

# **BRAIN-BASED LEARNING: How We Access Multiple Intelligences**

Our primary goal is to create a positive attitude about learning by rewiring our student's neural networks through multi-sensory opportunities that tap into student's strengths and promote motivation.

- **Learn in Multiple Ways**

At Pinnacle, we focus on learning in more than one way. Instead of just listening to a lecture, which involves auditory learning, the teacher will engage a Reader's Workshop to rehearse the information verbally, visually, and kinesthetically. This might be followed by interactive notes, drawings, and the creation of mind maps on the board or in student Interactive Reader's Notebooks. By learning in more than one way, students are further cementing the knowledge in their minds. Research indicates that the more regions of the brain that store data about a subject, the more interconnection is created.

- **Teach What You've Learned**

We know that one of the best ways to learn something is to teach it to someone else. By teaching to others, students share newly learned skills and knowledge with others, which reinforces concepts and applies information to their long-term memory. *Project-Based Learning* intensives offer students opportunities to immerse their learned knowledge into multi-sensory demonstrations including PowerPoint presentations, role plays, mini-movies, artistic renderings, and other memorable media.

- **Utilize Previous Learning to Promote New Learning**

Another great way to become a more effective learner is to use relational learning, which involves relating new information to things that you already know.

- **Gain Practical Experience**

For many of us, learning typically involves reading textbooks, attending lectures or doing research in the library or on the Web. While seeing information and then writing it down is important, actually putting new knowledge and skills into practice can be one of the best ways to improve learning. In an effort to enhance our student's acquisition of a new skill or ability, we focus on experiential, hands-on learning. Field trips, guest speakers, community-based internships, and field experience are ways that we teach through application.

- **Understand Personal Learning Style**

Another great strategy for improving student learning efficiency is to help them to recognize their learning habits and styles. Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences (see descriptions at the end of this document) describes eight different types of intelligence that can help students to recognize their individual strengths. Tapping into visual, auditory, tactile, kinesthetic learning styles aides student confidence and ability.

- **Use Specific Testing Strategies to Boost Learning**

We know that our students need opportunities to reinforce and demonstrate the maintenance of previously learned concepts. Our semester exams are designed to boost executive function strategies, teaching students to plan, prepare, and assess their learning over time. A full week devoted to exam review ensures that teachers can monitor student preparedness.

Check out the many ways that Pinnacle students demonstrate their multiple intelligences here: