



Motivation in Middle School

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Introduction

- Increase in number of unmotivated students
- 20% of this 8th grade class is lacking drive for academic excellence.

What is the problem?

- Information overload?
- Parental stress?
- Poor modelling?
- Irrelevant curriculum?

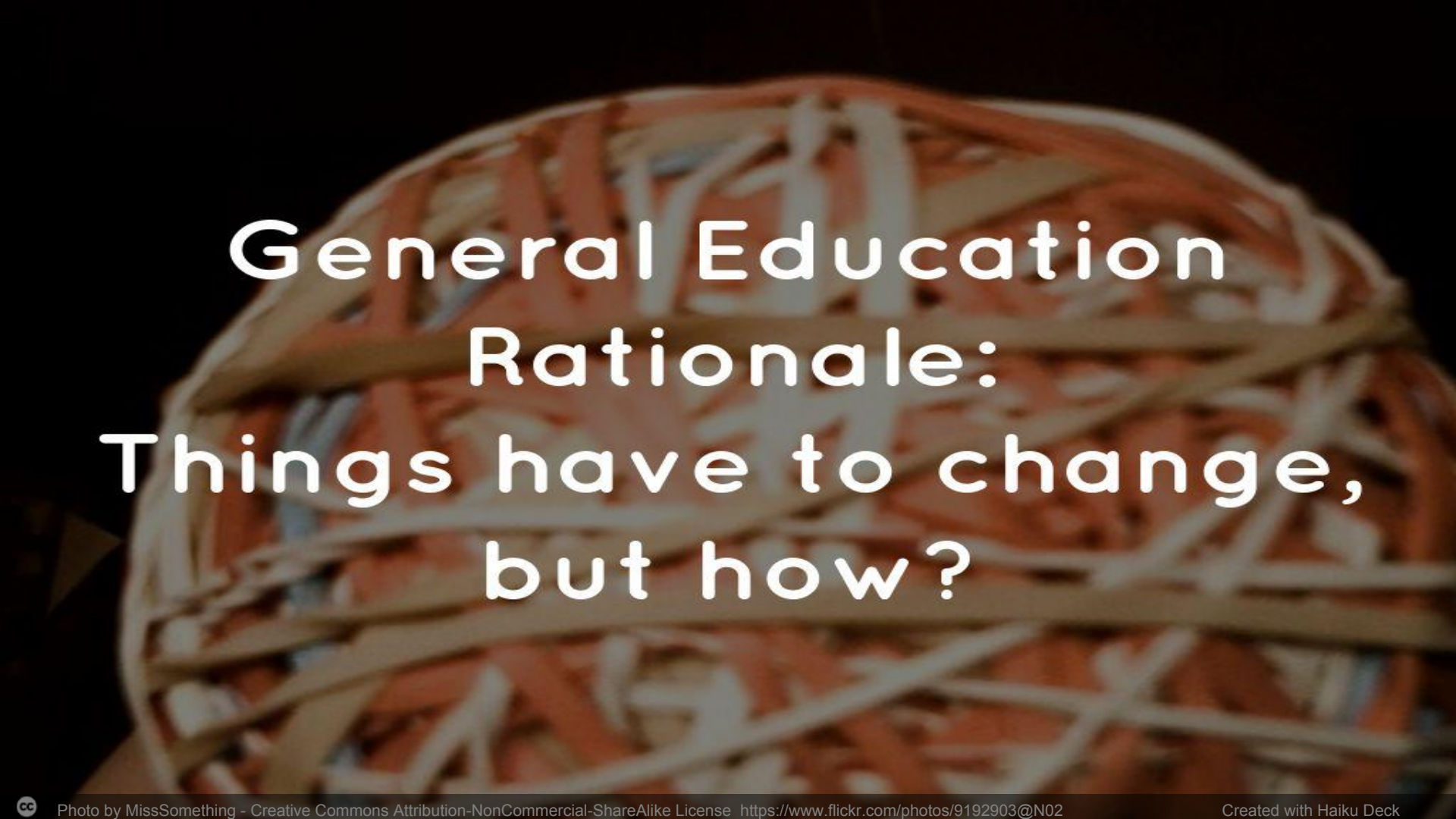


Obstacles to overcome

- Not enough parent involvement
- Lack of respect for adults and one another
- Too many distractions
- Peer modelling

Possible Solutions

- Creating connections -parents, students, teachers
- relevant curriculum
- Project Based Learning (PBL)
- Challenge Based Learning (CBL)
- More Listening and hearing what students need to learn



General Education Rationale: Things have to change, but how?

The Issue

- There is an alarming decrease in academic buy-in by some middle school students - specifically Hispanic males.
- The level of respect and ethics seems to have reached a very low level.
- There is greater tolerance of misbehavior among students by parents and teachers.

Research Findings:

- Hall, J. (2015, April).
New Perspective on
Student Engagement.
Association for Middle
Level Education
(AMLE)

SCORE-

1. Success
2. Curiosity
3. Originality
4. Relationships
5. Energy

Research Findings:

- “Motivating Young Adolescents.”

Wormel, R. (2014, September 1). Motivating Young Adolescents. Educational Leadership, 26-31.

Practical and Useful Approaches:

1. "Adopt Two Mindsets"
2. "Empathize and Build Trust"
3. "Remember Where They Are"
4. "Give Descriptive Feedback"
5. "Teach How the Brain Learns"
6. "Tell Stories and Spark Curiosity"

Ibanez, G. (2004). Cultural Attributes and Adaptation Linked to Achievement Motivations Among Latino Adolescents. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 33(6), 559-568

Cultural Adaptation

- Most students are 2nd and 3rd generation St. Helenans
- The families are hard-working people.
- Somehow there is a cultural disconnect

Interventions in place at RLS

- Family Groups
- Safe School Ambassadors
- CLARO
- Interventions during lunch every Thursday
- Schedule in place that allows for meetings with the grade level teams, parents, student, Principal, and counselor

Challenge-Based Learning



1. Relevant learning to create engaged students
2. Important contributions to the community and the world.
3. Practical knowledge gathered and synthesized in a collaborative and respectful manner.
4. Useful and applicable information that will help students in the future.

CBL

1. Integrates all subjects and demonstrates connections
2. Students in charge of their learning
3. Focus on global challenges with local solutions
4. Authentic use of technology
5. Develops 21st century skills - thinking, making sense out of information
6. Encourages deep reflection on

A Learning Environment needs to be created that makes everyone feel safe and respected.

[Remake My Classroom](#)

I liked having family group beacuse it
is really fun, it helped me meet more
7th & 8th graders, it made me confident in work.

I think that it would be fun to play
soft but fun music in the background.

PS thank you for making me feel more
comfortable at RLS, I hope that I can
do the same next year.