

QUEST 2016

Heidi Siwak Integrative thinking- peers and teachers

KIRA: I think a lot of teaching actually happens between me and my fellow students. And that's kind of what I like about being in Miss Siwak's class. She kind of -- she, like, gives you the outlines and then steps off to the side, but she lets all of the kids learn from each other. And that's what kind of has the whole class move forward as one, as opposed to these people get it, but these people are completely lost. Everybody understands, has the same understanding.

LEAH: That's pretty much what I was going to say. We always, like, I usually learn from my peers rather than the teacher. But this year, it's more the teacher gives you an instruction, and then that's it. You can't talk to anyone about it. So I find that it's much easier to learn in Miss Siwak's class than the previous year, and the previous years.

KIRA: Absolutely.

LEAH: Yeah, I would say that.

KIRA: Yeah, because she just was very interested in our new ideas. Most teachers, you know, they pretend they're interested. They say, "Oh, that's great," then go away. But Miss Siwak will say, "Oh, can you tell me more about this? How did you come to this conclusion? What information did you pay attention to?" And this all helps her for teaching the next class.