

## **Engagement & Personal Interests**

The other thing that was amazing about the makers club to me was that some of our kids have this really deep interest or talents that we never tap into in the school day. We never know what they might be thinking about or creating in their in their head if we don't give them an opportunity. And sometimes in the regular school day, there's just not time for them. It's just not time or the curriculum doesn't lend itself to that.

So for example, a few years ago we had a kid who was not really super engaged with school. He kind of did the minimum, I would say to get by and stay off the radar. And generally didn't seem that interested in school, but he was part of the makers club and we we asked him, the theme was games that students came up with, and he just had this fully fleshed out game in his head that had to do with memes, which was a big interest of his. And it just came pouring or flooding out.

And I know for me I never would have asked him or known that about him and he was so engaged with it. Worked tirelessly on the game in a way that in the classroom I never I never saw him engage in that in the same way. And he ended up creating this really complicated game that incorporated memes, which was an interest of his.

And I think it really just helped him so much to have a, an opportunity to really tap into his interests and kind of show what he could do and what he was thinking about. Probably sometimes during classes during the day, he probably was thinking about the game. And when we finally found out that's what he was into, it was like, "Oh, thanks for asking. I have a whole game ready to go!", which is kind of amazing.