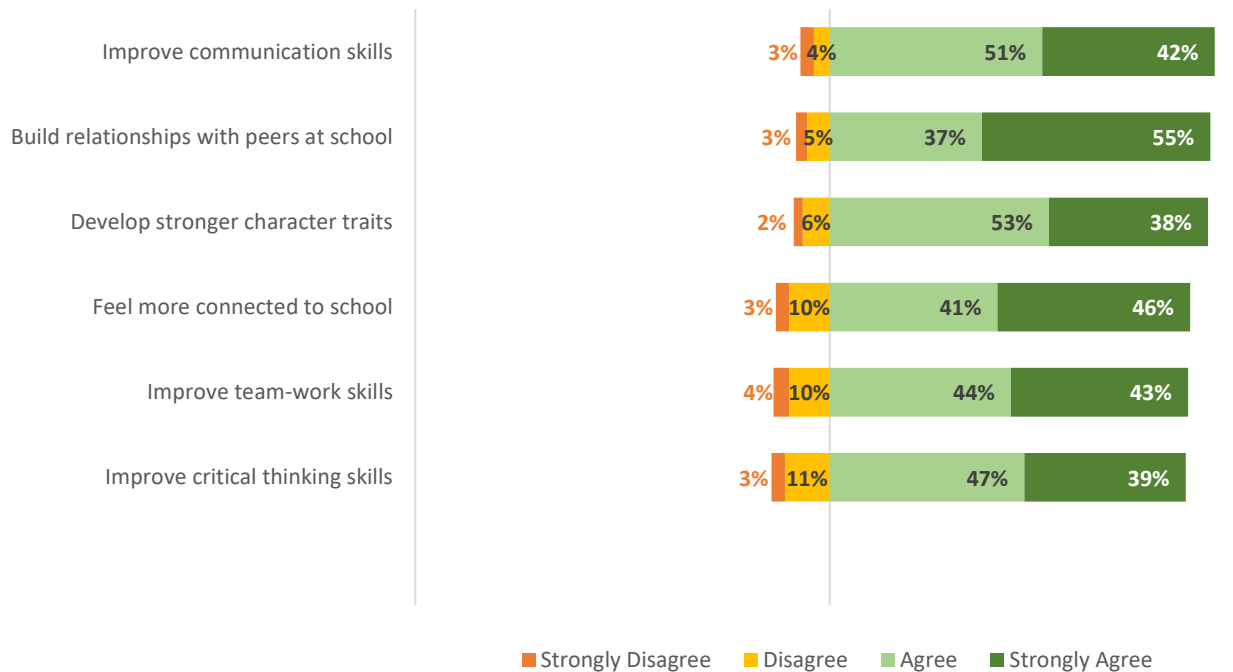Orange County Department of Education
Educational Services Division

Orange County Academic Decathlon (OCAD)
2023-2024 Student Survey Data

In January 2024, 185 Decathletes participated in a survey to gather information regarding the OCAD program's impact on increasing student engagement and developing skills in the areas of communication, critical thinking, collaboration, and positive character traits. Below are the survey results.

Percent (%) of students who reported OCAD help them to:

Category	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Improve communication skills	3%	4%	51%	42%
Build relationships with peers at school	3%	5%	37%	55%
Develop stronger character traits	2%	6%	53%	38%
Feel more connected to school	3%	10%	41%	46%
Improve team-work skills	4%	10%	44%	43%
Improve critical thinking skills	3%	11%	47%	39%

■ Strongly Disagree ■ Disagree ■ Agree ■ Strongly Agree

Note. Percentages were rounded to the nearest whole number.

Data Highlights:
- **93%** of students reported improved **skills in communication.**
- **92%** of students reported that OCAD helped them **build relationships with their peers at school.**
- **91%** of students reported that OCAD helped them develop **stronger character traits.**
- **87%** of students reported feeling more **connected to their school.**
- **87%** of students reported improved **skills in team-work.**
- **86%** of students reported improved **critical thinking skills.**

In the students' words:

"My experience with Academic Decathlon taught me a lot of life skills, including speech, interview, and economics principles, that I can continue to apply in many real world situations to better understand people and society."

"Academic Decathlon was beneficial to me because it helped me improve my study habits and time management. It has also helped me learn new things I wouldn't learn at school, such as neuroscience! I have also created many connections with it."

"The first day I joined Decathlon, I instantly felt like I belonged. It helped me make new friends and develop leadership skills."

"Academic Decathlon has been one of the best experiences of my entire school year, and I think it has been a great benefit to my study habits and motivation, as well as working with my team members."