

# ★ Theft & Stealing

*Greater Brunswick Charter School: Youth in Action*

★ Who are we?

We are the  
**Youth in Action**  
of  
*Greater Brunswick Charter School*

# ★ Community Brainstorm:



What Community should we research?

# ★ Our Community: GBCS

- GBCS:
  - New Brunswick, New Jersey
  - Kindergarten through 8th grade
  - "Strengths" and "Things We'd Like to Change"

GBCS  
our school  
community

strengths	things we'd like to improve or change
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- nice teachers<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- make learning fun</li><li>- connect w/ topic</li></ul></li><li>- playground</li><li>- art room</li><li>- fun / nice environment</li><li>- computers</li><li>- friends, friendly</li><li>- materials/supplies</li><li>- respectful</li><li>- good rules</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Soda fountain <sup>Solution</sup> for more energy <sup>to solve</sup> Sleepy Students</li><li>- Laptops → save paper</li><li>- more materials<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- field trips</li><li>- books (fiction-non fiction)</li><li>- after school</li><li>- experiential learning</li></ul>More Money</li><li>- Later school start time → better test scores</li></ul>

## ★ Our "Issue"

- What does Theft & Stealing mean
- How we selected our issue
- Why we chose this issue





# ★ Discussing our Research Topic

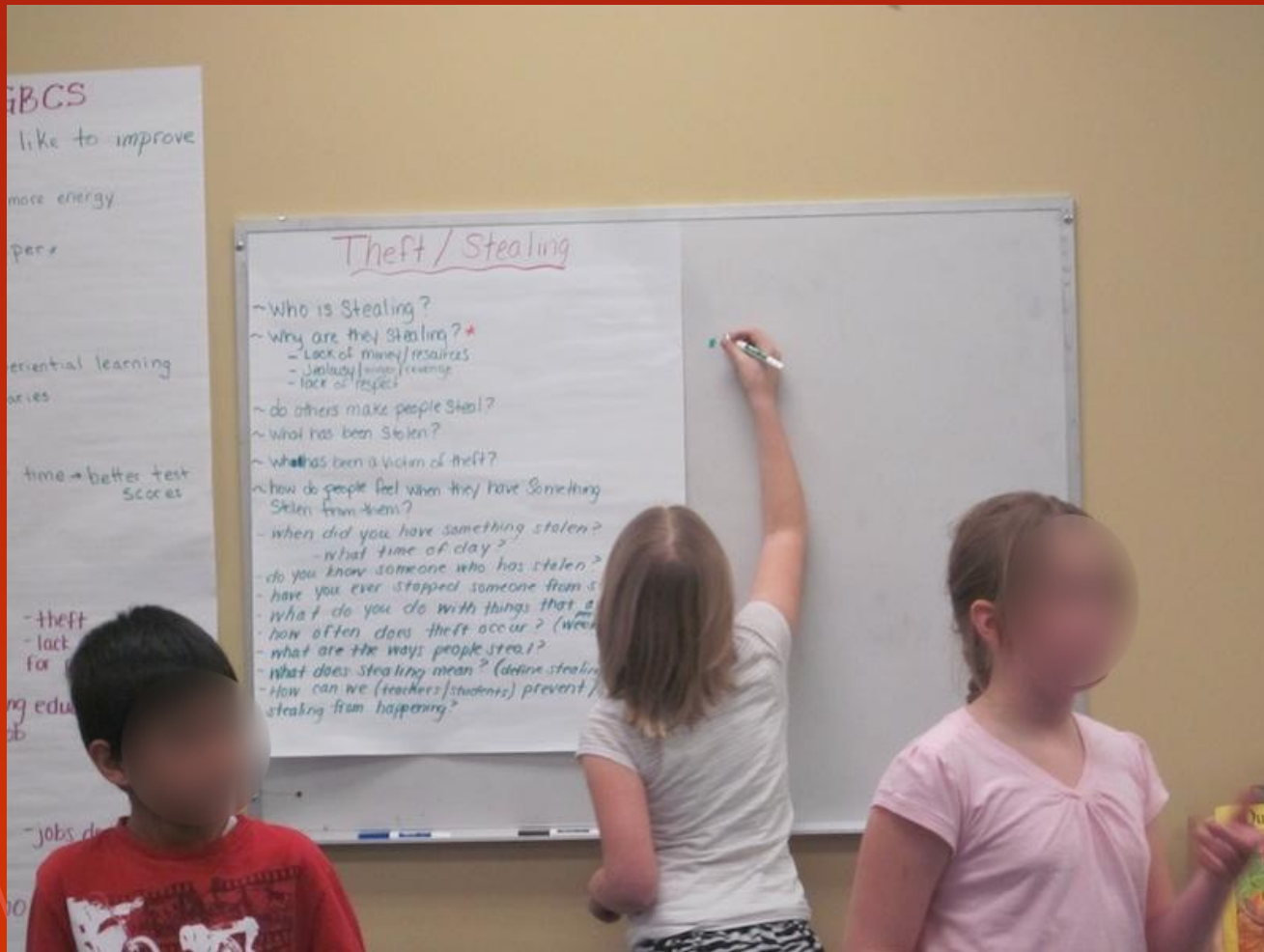




## ★ Our Method

- Came up with questions
- Created survey (students and teachers)
- Interviewed administrators and teachers
- Sorted the data
- Coded the open ended questions
- Created charts to represent our data
- Took pictures
- We created our presentation

# ★ We had so many questions!



## Theft / Stealing

- who is stealing?
- why are they stealing?
  - lack of money/resources
  - jealousy
  - lack of respect
- do others make people steal?
- what has been stolen?
- who has been a victim of theft?
- how do people feel when they have something stolen from them?



What grade are you in?  
K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9  
Have you ever read a book?  
Yes No  
What kind of book do you like?  
Fiction Non-fiction





# Questions for Specific Populations at GBCS

## Students who have been stolen from

- How many times have you been stolen from? \_\_\_\_\_
- What items have been stolen?
- How do you feel when you have something stolen from you?  
- How can we fix the problem of theft and stealing?
- Do you think lockers would solve the problem of theft in our school?

## principals/ administrators

5. Why was it stolen?
6. Why are people stealing?
1. Have you gotten complaints about stealing?  
A. How many complaints?  
B. Which grade have you gotten the most complaints?
  2. Have you seen anything suspicious?  
A. Where did you see it?
  3. Do you know what happens to people that steal?  
A. What happens to them?  
B. Would you get mad if someone told you that they stole something?
  4. Do you know what was stolen?  
A. What was it?

## teachers

- How do you feel when people steal in?
- Has anything have been stolen in school?
- What do you do when you find someone stealing?
- What count as proof that someone is stealing?
- Have you ever seen someone stealing?
- What was stolen from the class room?

## students who have witnessed stealing

- ① Have you seen someone steal?
- ② Where did the stealing take place?
- ③ ~~What was there gender?~~
- ④ What time did the stealing happen? (Morning, Afternoon, Night between classes, during class)
- ⑤ Did you try to stop them?
- ⑥ Did you tell anyone what you saw?
- ⑦ ~~What did they look like? (Race, short, tall.)~~



# ★ Our Method

- WHY we choose to gather it that way
  - Surveys: Easiest way to get to most people
  - Interviews: One on one answers; talk to people to get full reactions
  - Picture & Video: To document our work and to show our problem
  - Cafeteria Poll: "Do you think stealing is a problem at GBCS?"
    - To see how our school feels about stealing

# ★ The Cafeteria Poll





# ★ The Surveys

## Student Survey

Your fellow students are researching issues that affect your GBCS community. All answers are private and we will not ask for your name. Please answer as honestly as possible.

\*\*\*Your answers will NOT get you in trouble\*\*\*

What grade are you in? *Pick one*

K  1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8

Have you ever been stolen from at GBCS? *Pick one*

Yes  
 No

If yes, how many times have you been stolen from at GBCS? *Pick one*

1-2 times  
 3-4 times  
 More than 4 times

What items have been stolen from you? *Check all that apply.*

money  
 electronics  
 clothes / jewelry  
 food  
 school supplies

How do you feel when you have something stolen from you?

1 2 3 4 5

Very upset      Don't care

How do you think we can fix the problem of theft and stealing at GBCS?

Have you ever stolen anything at GBCS? *Pick one*

*(We don't know your name, so you won't get in trouble. Please be honest.)*

Yes  
 No

If yes, what have you stolen? *check all that apply*

money  
 electronics  
 clothes / jewelry  
 food  
 school supplies

## Teacher Survey

A group of your GBCS students are researching issues that affect the school community. Your answers will be anonymous and we will not ask for your name. Please answer as honestly as possible.

Top of Form

Have you ever had something stolen from your classroom?

yes  no

\* If yes, what was stolen? (choose all that apply)

money  
electronics  
clothes / jewelry / accessories  
food  
school supplies  
toys

On a scale from 1-5, how do you feel when you have something stolen from you?

Don't Care	1	2	3	4	5	Very Upset
Don't Care						Very Upset

Have you ever witnessed someone steal from your classroom or anywhere in the school?

yes  no

Is there a punishment / consequence when you catch someone stealing from your or someone in the school?

yes  no

\* If yes, what is the punishment / consequence?

\* What counts as proof that someone is stealing?

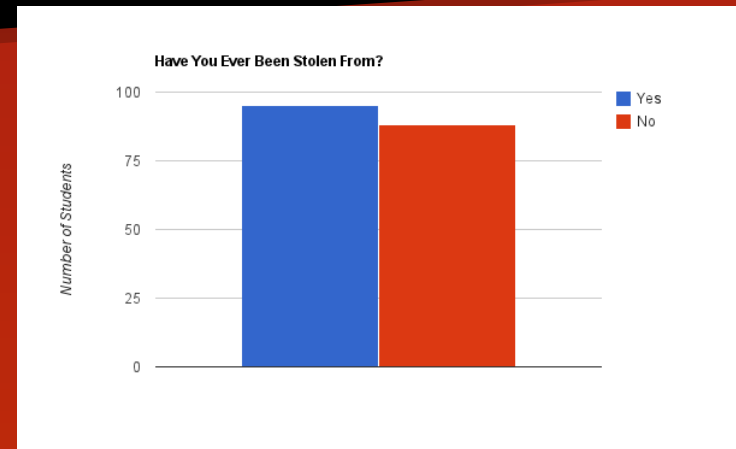
# ★ Tallying the Results!



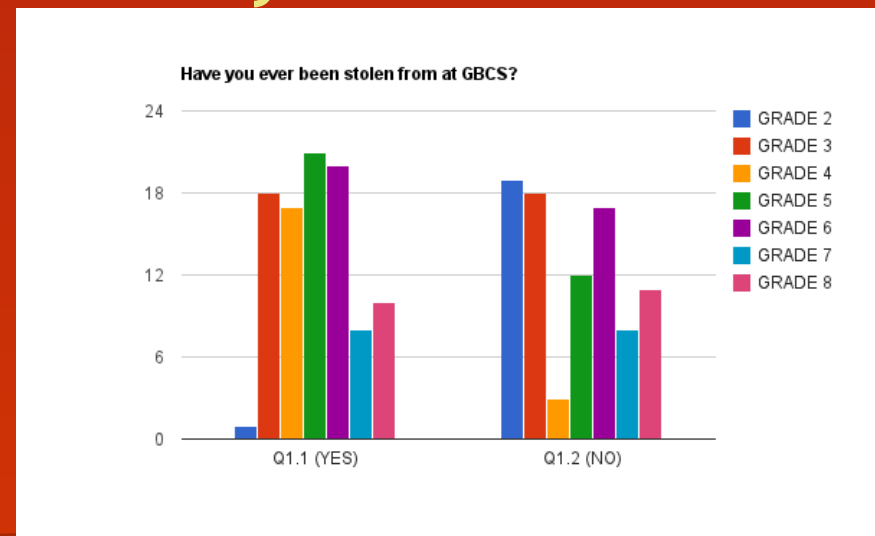
# ★ Our Findings:

- Students who have been stolen from:
  - There were more students that were stolen from than not
    - But it was close
      - 95 said they were stolen from
      - 88 said nothing was stolen

## Total:

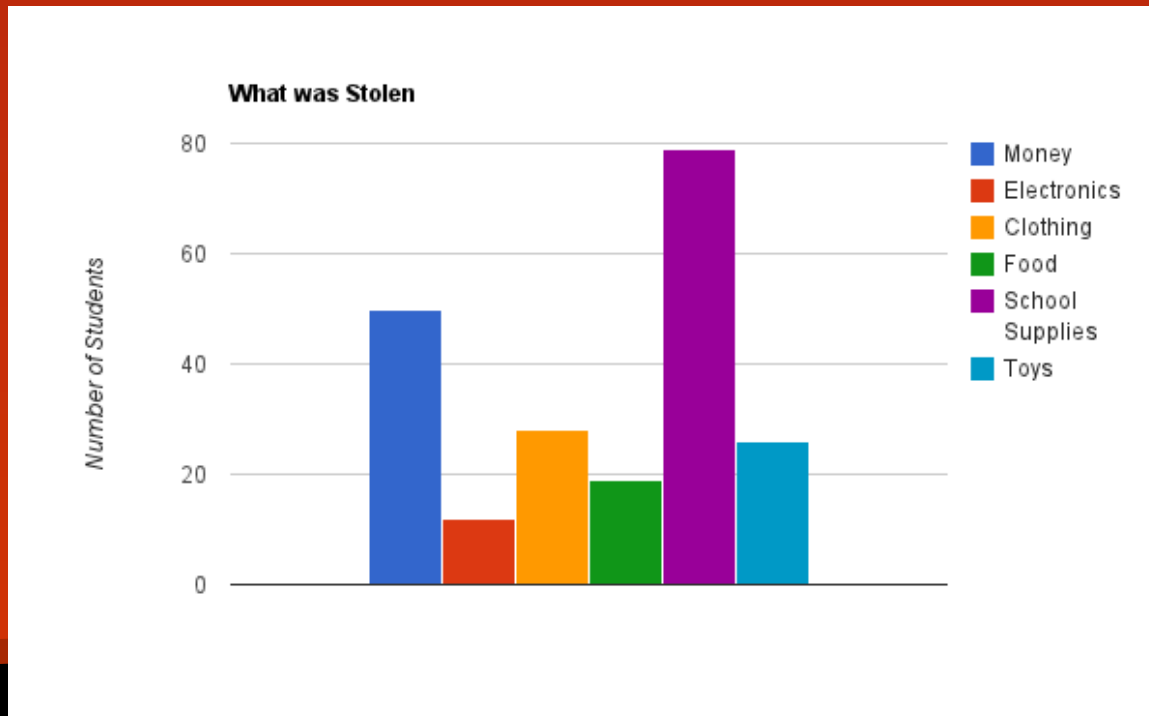


## By Grade Level:



# ★ Our Findings

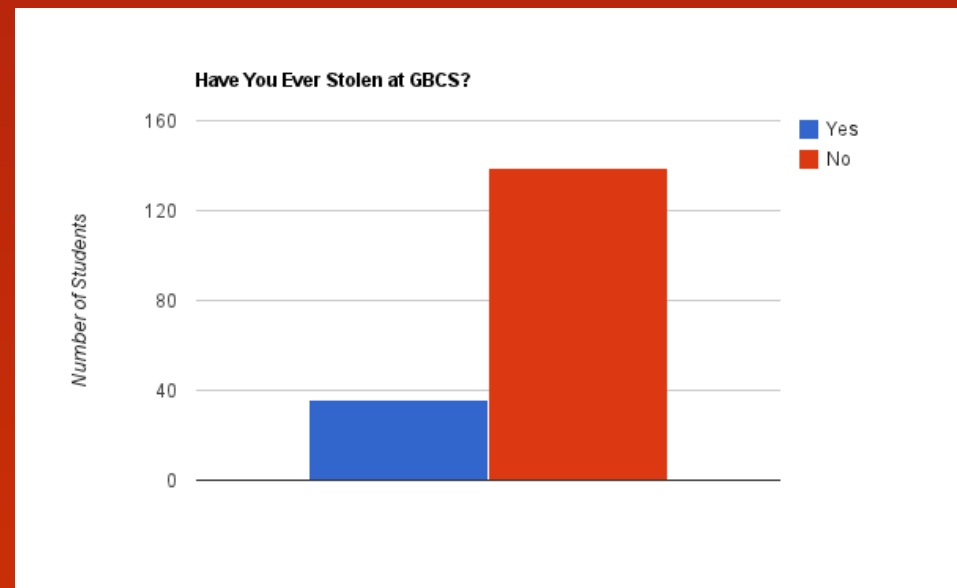
- Things most often stolen:
  - 1st - School Supplies
  - 2nd - Money
  - 3rd - Clothes



# ★ Our Findings

"Have you ever stolen at GBCS?"

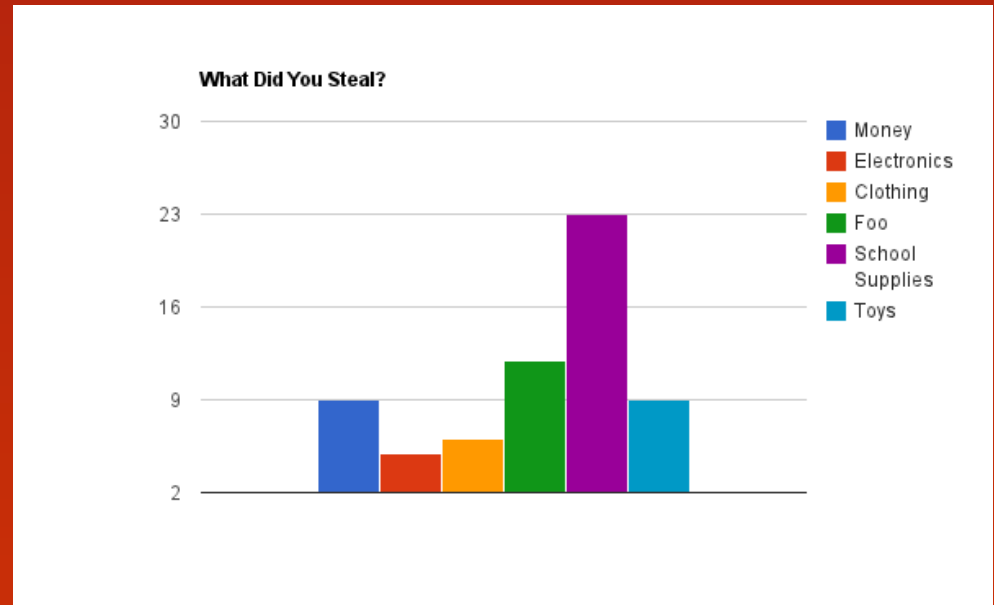
- 36 students have stolen at GBCS
- 139 students have NOT stolen at GBCS
- This means that **most** students at GBCS do not steal



# ★ Our Findings: Students who Steal

## "What did you steal?"

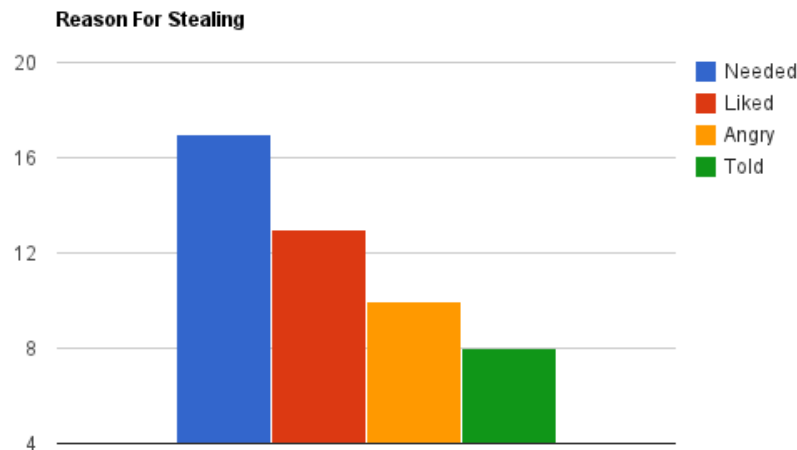
- Money - 9 students
- Electronics - 5 students
- Clothing - 6 students
- School Supplies - 23
- Toys - 9 students



# ★ Our Findings: Reasons for Stealing

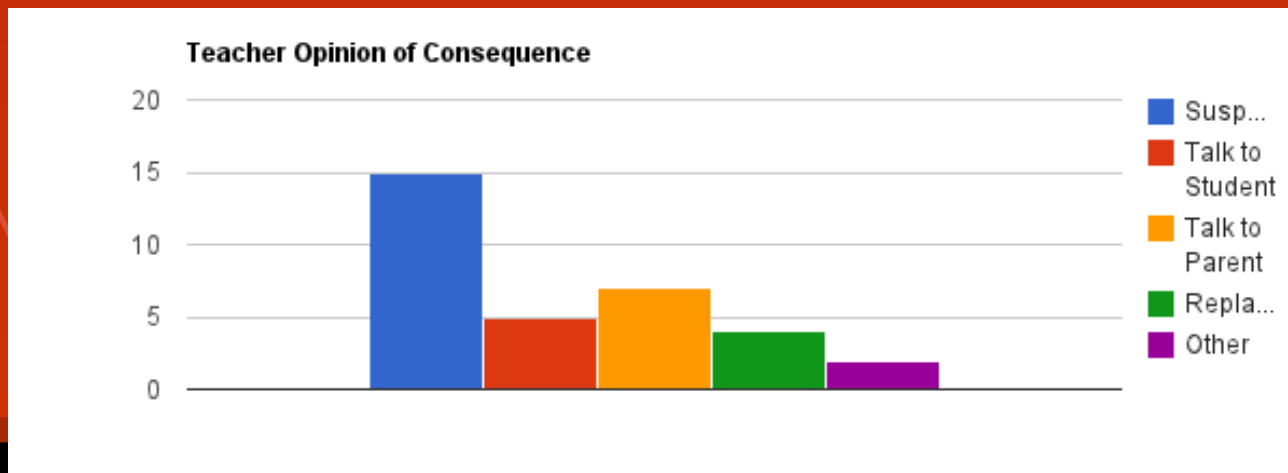
Students stole because:

- 17 needed what they stole
- 13 liked what they stole
- 10 were angry at who they stole from
- 8 were told to steal



# ★ Teacher Survey

- Most teachers really care about stealing.
- 10 out of 16 have seen a student steal at GBCS
- All teachers think there should be a consequence for stealing.
  - Most think that suspension is the best punishment.





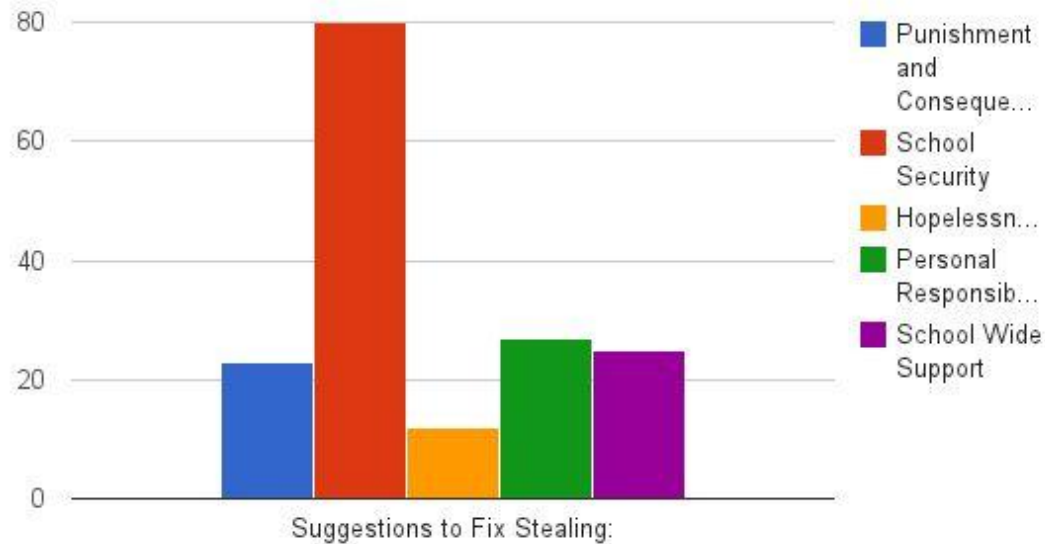
★ What can be done to end stealing?

# ★ Our Conclusions

- Stealing is a problem at GBCS
  - More 5th and 6th graders have been stolen from than in other grades
  - Most people have been stolen from 1-2 times
- It occurs more in the Afternoon
  - Especially in 5th, 6th, and 8th grade
- Money and School Supplies are stolen most
- People stole because they needed or liked what they stole

# ★ Our Solutions

How can GBCS solve this stealing issue?









# ★ Our Solutions: By Theme

- Punishment & Consequences:
  - "I think we should have a rule about no stealing"
  - "People who steal should get detention"
- School Security:
  - "We should get classroom cameras."
  - "We should have lockers."
  - "People should be in the halls to watch."
  - "Lockers to keep our stuff safe."

# ★ Our Solutions: By Theme

- Hopelessness:
  - "We can't fix it."
- Personal Responsibility:
  - "If you bring stuff to school you should keep it with you."
  - "People should care more."
- School Wide Support:
  - "We should have an assembly to talk about stealing."



# ★ Our Solutions

- We would recommend:
  - LOCKERS
    - They fit under the most popular theme suggested (School Security)
    - A lot of our GBCS community suggested this too
    - We can decorate them and make it personal
    - No one knows the combination but us (and a teacher)

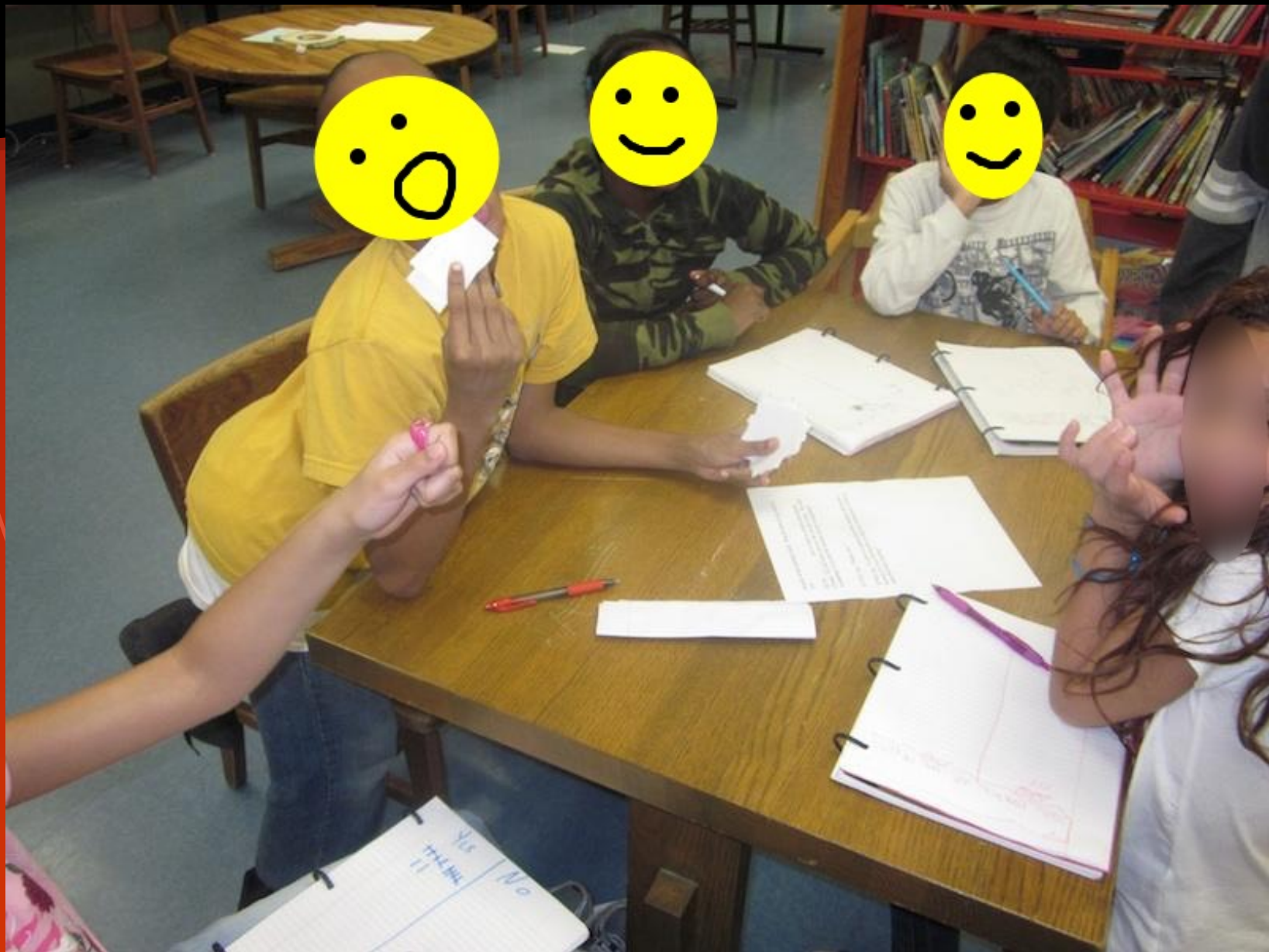


All this research and  
✦ data...

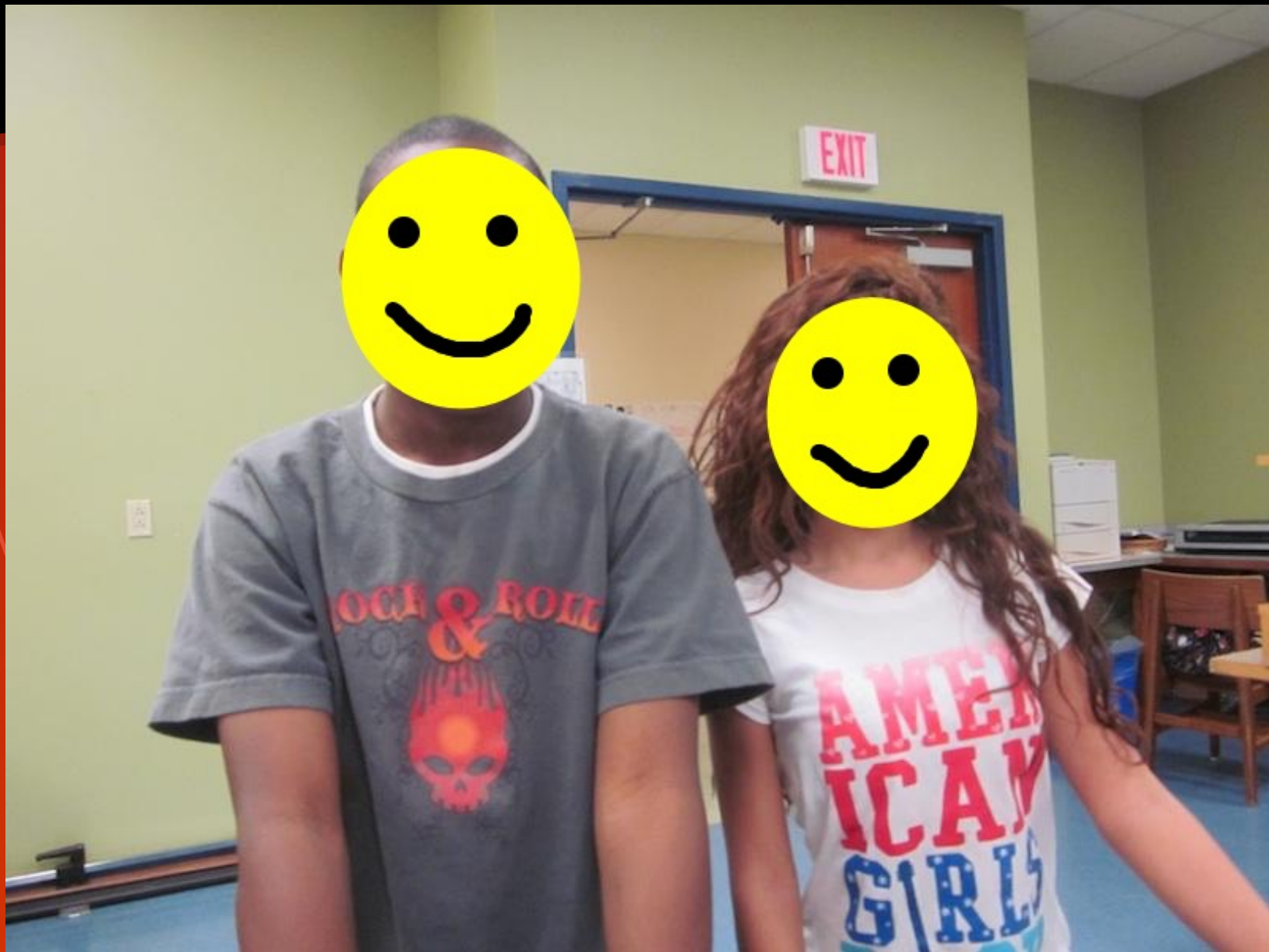
But we had fun too!

Some highlights of our *Youth in Action* Sessions...







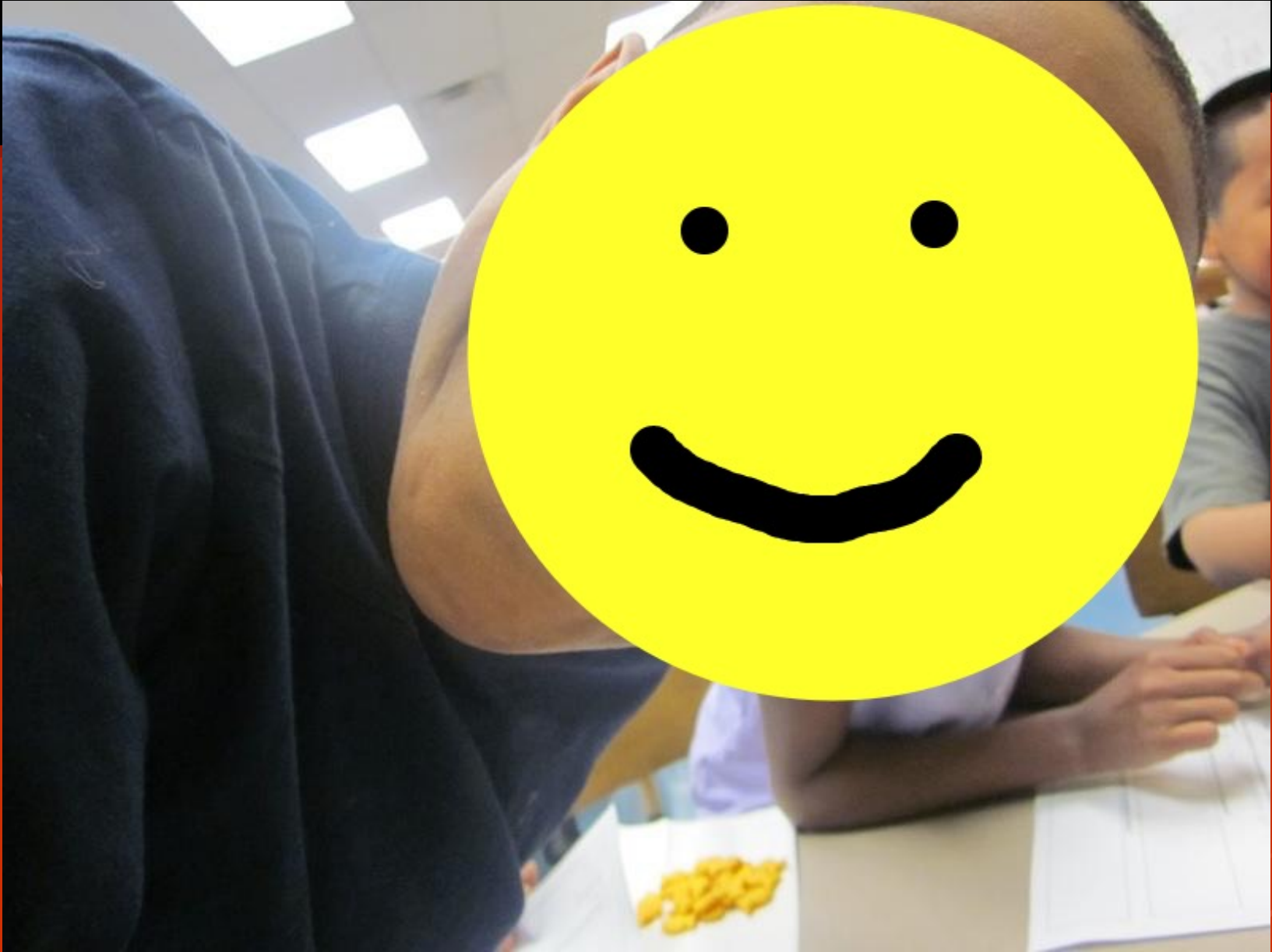






















**THANK YOU!**

GBCS is the Best!!!! =)