TomoClub

From Teacher Anxiety to Student AI Literacy in One School Year

Amity School District, Oregon | 132 Students | Grades 8–9 | Academic Year 2025–26

"In August 2025, Amity's teachers named cheating as their #1 AI concern. By March 2026, their students were debating AI ethics and scoring 87% on assessments."

DELIVERED BY TOMOCLUB | DATA AS OF MARCH 2026

1. Executive Summary

Midway through the 2025–26 school year, 132 students across Amity School District are demonstrating measurable gains in AI literacy. Eighth-graders are averaging an 87% pass rate on session assessments, while ninth-graders are producing critical responses about bias and algorithmic manipulation. These outcomes are the direct result of Superintendent Jeff Clark's strategic decision to invest in professional development first. By training 40 educators through TomoClub's "Tomorrow's AI Champions" program, the district created a "teacher enablement" pipeline that transformed anxiety into expertise.

The program is supported by TomoClub's advisory board, including former superintendents Debbie Brockett and Melvin Brown, active Superintendent Al Lewis, and psychologist Chelsea Dean. Their guidance ensures the curriculum is pedagogically sound and aligned with district goals. As Principal Mary Matocha notes, "Post Tomo AI Training, educators are sharing new AI tools or strategies with each other," signaling a cultural shift from digital passivity to active engagement.

TRUST & ACCOUNTABILITY

Pre/Post Assessment Promise: Pre-survey baselines are already in place. Post-program assessments will be completed in May 2026. TomoClub will deliver a full pre/post impact report following the academic year — a level of accountability rarely offered by curriculum providers.

2. Assessment & Evidence — How We Know It's Working

87%	4.6/5	93%	9.2/10
Average Pass Rate	**Ethics Debate Score**	**Educator Confidence**	**Student Approval**
8th Grade Assessments	Highest in Program	Reported Stronger AI Understanding	High School Session Rating

132 Students Enrolled | 20 Sessions Delivered | Grade 8 + Grade 9 | Oct 2025 – May 2026

3. The Backstory: From PD to Student Curriculum

In the spring of 2025, Amity School District faced a common challenge: pervasive teacher anxiety regarding AI. When surveyed, educators overwhelmingly cited "cheating" as their primary concern. Superintendent Jeff Clark recognized that policy alone would not solve this; the district needed a structured educational pathway.

The strategy began with the teachers. In August 2025, 40 educators completed training, gaining the confidence to guide students through the complexities of artificial intelligence. This "train the trainer" model ensured that when the student curriculum launched in October, it was led by trusted, capable adults.

> *"Post Tomo AI Training, educators are sharing new AI tools or strategies with each other." — Mary Matocha, Principal, Amity Middle School*

Crucially, the curriculum was designed with a "Navigating Self" ethical thread interwoven into every lesson. Rather than treating ethics as a standalone lecture, students engage with it weekly—debating ownership, privacy, and their own autonomy in an algorithmic world.

4. How the Program Works

The TomoClub model is built on **Teacher Enablement — designed for educators, not only CS specialists**. The curriculum provides **Classroom-Ready Tools** and facilitates **structured learning in every 60-minute session**, allowing teachers to focus on facilitation rather than technical troubleshooting.

Middle School (Grade 8)

64 students across 2 cohorts

Led by Darcy Hatch

Oct 2025 – Apr 2026

Status: 13 of 15 sessions complete.

(See Appendix A for full scope)

High School (Grade 9)

70 students across 2 cohorts

Led by Jill Whitehead

Jan 2026 – May 2026

Status: 7 of 15 sessions complete.

(See Appendix A for full scope)

5. Where Students Started (Pre-Survey Insights)

Before the curriculum began, a baseline survey of 65 freshmen revealed a critical "High Awareness, Low Agency" gap. This data underscores why a structured curriculum was necessary—exposure to technology does not equate to literacy.

- **The Agency Gap:** 82% recognized helpful vs harmful AI, but only 25% felt capable of creating with it.
- **Curiosity without Confidence:** Only 40% felt confident explaining AI to a friend.
- **Passive Consumption:** 43% were not excited about AI, indicating a default state of digital passivity rather than empowerment.

6. What the Data Shows — Results by Program

Middle School Results (Sessions 3–12)

Methodology: Quantitative Exit Tickets (Scored 1–5). Verified data as of March 2026.

Session	Topic	Responses	Avg Score	Pass Rate (≥3)
3	Rules vs Learning	31	4.3/5	84%
4	How AI Decides	38	4.1/5	79%
5	Brain of AI (NLP)	39	4.2/5	92%
6	Eyes of AI (CV)	38	4.2/5	87%
7	Critical Thinking	55	4.5/5	82%
8	Rights & Privacy	49	4.3/5	88%
9	Prompting Basics	52	4.1/5	85%
10	Context & Constraints	51	3.9/5	78%
11	Gen AI & Learning	50	4.3/5	92%
12	Ethics Debate ★	53	4.6/5	94%
Avg	**Program Average (10 Sessions)**	**—**	**4.25/5**	**87%**

Insight: The dip in "Context & Constraints" (78%) reflects the difficulty of advanced prompting, but the immediate rebound to 92% and 94% in subsequent sessions demonstrates resilience and rapid mastery.

Student Voices — Middle School (Grade 8)

Selected written responses from 8th-grade exit tickets, lightly edited for clarity.

> *"I used to think AI just knew everything. Now I know it was trained — someone chose what it learned."*
>
> — 8TH GRADE STUDENT, SESSION 3: RULES VS LEARNING

> *"It's weird that my face can teach a computer to see. We trained our own image classifier and I actually get it now."*
>
> — 8TH GRADE STUDENT, SESSION 6: EYES OF AI (CV)

> *"If I don't read the privacy policy, I'm basically giving someone else permission to use my data however they want."*
>
> — 8TH GRADE STUDENT, SESSION 8: RIGHTS & PRIVACY

> *"I thought prompting was just typing questions. Now I know the way you frame something totally changes the answer."*
>
> — 8TH GRADE STUDENT, SESSION 9: PROMPTING BASICS

> *"ChatGPT is a tool. I'm the one who still has to think."*
>
> — 8TH GRADE STUDENT, SESSION 11: GEN AI & LEARNING

> *"The ethics debate was hard because both sides had a real point. That's what real decisions feel like."*
>
> — 8TH GRADE STUDENT, SESSION 12: ETHICS DEBATE

High School Results (Sessions 1–6)

Methodology: Qualitative Reflection & Session Ratings. Verified data as of March 2026.

Session	Topic	Ethical Thread	Responses	Avg Rating
1	AI, the System	Maintaining your voice	30	4.3/5
2	AI History & Power	Who benefits, who pays?	38	4.1/5
3	Rules vs Learning	Over-trusting systems	59	4.7/5
4	Hallucinations & Decisions	Cognitive offloading	55	4.2/5
5	Bias in the Machine	Fairness vs accuracy	58	4.1/5
6	The Algorithm of You ★	Autonomy & manipulation	27	4.8/5

Student Voices — High School (Grade 9)

Selected written responses from 9th-grade exit tickets, lightly edited for clarity.

> *"AI doesn't learn, it predicts."*
>
> — 9TH GRADE STUDENT, SESSION 3: RULES VS LEARNING

> *"Don't get pulled into the algorithm that social media wants you to."*
>
> — 9TH GRADE STUDENT, SESSION 6: THE ALGORITHM OF YOU

> *"Use AI for ideas not for answers."*
>
> — 9TH GRADE STUDENT, SESSION 4: HALLUCINATIONS

> *"AI can be biased based on past representations on the subject matter."*
>
> — 9TH GRADE STUDENT, SESSION 5: BIAS IN THE MACHINE

> *"AI is a smart tool that makes things easier for you but makes your brain slower if you rely on it too much."*
>
> — 9TH GRADE STUDENT, SESSION 1: AI, THE SYSTEM

7. What Makes This Work

- **Ethics as the Backbone:** Every session integrates a "Navigating Self" component, ensuring technical skills are always paired with responsibility.
- **Hands-on Every Week:** Students do not just watch videos. They train models in Teachable Machine, play Semantris, use the RTCF prompting framework, and audit their own TikTok feeds.
- **Teacher-Led, TomoClub-Supported:** The program leverages the relationships teachers already have with students, backed by professional-grade content.
- **Capstone Projects:** The semester culminates in a project where students identify a real-world problem and prototype an AI solution, shifting their identity from consumer to creator.

8. Return on Investment

Structured AI literacy is one of the few district investments that creates a **multiplier effect**. A single investment in professional development for 40 educators enabled the launch of two full student programs, serving 132 students in the first year alone. This capacity remains in the district year after year.

The Cost of "Digital Passivity"

Without a curriculum, the baseline data shows that students default to passivity: 43% of freshmen were unexcited about AI, and only 25% felt capable of designing with it. The cost of inaction is a student body that is unprepared for the modern workforce and vulnerable to algorithmic manipulation.

Better than Generic AI Programming

The TomoClub approach delivers higher value because it is:

- **Designed for Educators:** Accessible to all teachers, not just Computer Science specialists.
- **Operationally Efficient:** 60-minute classroom-ready sessions that fit existing schedules.
- **Evidence-Based:** Built-in assessment frameworks track progress weekly.

Final ROI data, including pre/post comparison across both programs, will be available in the full-year impact report after May 2026.

9. What Comes Next

- **Middle School:** Final capstone presentations completing Semester 1 in May 2026.
- **High School:** Upcoming modules on "Governance & Law" and "Creativity & Ownership."
- **Enrollment:** Registration for the AY 2026-27 cohort is now open.

> **ACCOUNTABILITY MILESTONE**

Post-Program Assessment: Pre-survey baselines are in place. Both programs will administer post-surveys in May 2026. TomoClub delivers a full pre/post comparison report — a level of accountability rarely offered by curriculum providers.

Getting Started

"The call is designed to be useful regardless of next steps."

- ✓ Your district's current AI landscape
- ✓ Comparison to similar districts
- ✓ 2–3 quick wins for educators
- ✓ Policy & curriculum framework

Schedule Your Discovery Call →

If You Decide to Move Forward

1. **Readiness Surveys**
   Customized surveys for educators and students to calibrate programming.
2. **Customized Proposal**
   Scope, schedule, and pricing tailored to your district.
3. **Rollout**
   Onboarding, IT coordination, and full delivery. Educators get PD certificates.
4. **Ongoing Support**
   Slack community, weekly AI updates, resource library, and monthly newsletter.

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Appendix A: Full Curriculum Scope

Middle School (Grade 8)

AI foundations, machine learning, neural networks, NLP (Natural Language Processing), computer vision, bias & fairness, privacy, prompting frameworks (RTCF), generative AI, ethics debate, capstone project.

High School (Grade 9)

AI systems, history & power, algorithms vs ML, neural networks & hallucinations, bias, recommendation algorithms, deepfakes, AI & human connection, governance & law, creativity & ownership, capstone project.