



Your 17 year old has developed advanced reasoning skills, abstract thinking skills and more refined metacognition. In addition, your teen is more self conscious. They act as though they have an imaginary audience. 17 year olds also have the capacity for greater understanding of the world around them. The High School teachers in the Big Sky School District have found their seniors have learned that there can be more than one way to solve a problem. This realization has taught them to be more open to listening to others' point of view. They are better at connecting new information with previous knowledge and making inferences from that. These newly developed facets of intelligence, create the ability to have more rich discussions in the classroom. The black and white thought processes have softened and opened their eyes to the shades of gray in the world. The teachers find the students become passionate about world views or economics and are comfortable arguing their own ideas and even accepting opposing points of view.

As you embark on this last year of high school where your children are still under your roof and many decisions need to be made, take the time to savor your relationship with your senior and [know that you are not in this alone](#). The teachers, administration and support staff at the school love your child and want them to have successful, happy, and fulfilled lives.

For more on developmental stages and parenting information, contact your Thrive Parent Liaison, Lori Swenson at [lsvenson@bssd72.org](mailto:lsvenson@bssd72.org) or 995-4281.