

## LEARNING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES

We believe that learning is most effective when:

1. Learning is nurtured in a safe and supportive environment.

Therefore, we will:

- 1) build positive relationships;
- 2) seek ways to foster students' enjoyment of learning;
- 3) build strong learning communities that promote a culture of respect;
- 4) promote students' self-confidence, ability to see other perspectives, and willingness to take risks with their learning;
- 5) recognize mistakes as learning opportunities; and
- 6) provide space and resources conducive to learning.

2. Learning is purposeful for life beyond school.

Therefore, we will:

- 1) connect with, challenge, and extend students' present knowledge, skills, and understanding;
- 2) help students build skills in inquiry: asking probing questions and maintaining curiosity;
- 3) seek to connect students' learning and the world at large; and focus on teaching for enduring understanding guided by essential questions.

3. Learning results in the transfer of knowledge and skills to a variety of contexts.

Therefore, we will:

- 1) provide opportunities for students to raise questions, solve problems, and reason;
- 2) use instruction and assessment strategies that support the transfer of learning; and
- 3) provide opportunities for students to demonstrate understanding by applying prior knowledge and skills to new challenges and experiences.

4. Learning is personalized.

Therefore, we will:

- 1) use a range of strategies to identify and respond to students' different learning and social needs, and cultural perspectives;
- 2) provide a variety of learning opportunities which enable students to build on personal strengths and interests; and
- 3) empower students to advocate for their own learning as appropriate.

5. Learning is generated through interactions and integrated by the individual learner.

Therefore, we will:

- 1) plan experiences that build and develop skills for learning through both collaboration and individual reflection; and structure opportunities for students to learn with others inside and outside of the classroom.

6. Learning is enhanced by student engagement in metacognition.

Therefore we will:

- 1) explicitly teach and model how to self-reflect, self-assess, and use feedback; and
- 2) empower students to communicate about their own process of learning.

7. Learning is informed by effective assessments that address clear expectations.

Therefore, we will:

- 1) share and construct learning goals with students;
- 2) use formative and summative assessment as an ongoing part of the teaching and learning process;
- 3) assess understanding in various ways, including authentic, performance-based tasks; and
- 4) use assessment data for teachers and students to guide future instruction and learning.