

Vision Statement

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE THROUGH INNOVATION

**Philosophy, Goals,
and Objectives**

We believe our students need 21st century skills in order to succeed in school, work, and life in the 21st century. We are committed to ensuring that every student will graduate from high school ready for the workplace, college, or advanced technical/vocational training in the 21st century world.

Our goal is to provide access and opportunity for every student to learn 21st century skills and to eliminate the achievement and opportunity gaps among students so that all students will become educated citizens and lifelong learners who contribute to their community and the world in which they live.

Twenty-first century skills needed by our students include proficiency in core academic subjects; learning and innovation skills; communication and technology literacy; and interpersonal, life, and career skills. Our goal is to provide an instructional program that will support every student in learning these skills.

Proficiency in the core academic subjects of English, reading, writing, mathematics, science, world languages, the arts, civics, government, history, economics, and geography are essential. We believe these core subjects must be expanded to include 21st century learning skills.

Learning and innovation skills are necessary to prepare students for increasingly complex life and work environments of the 21st century. These skills include creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem solving, communication and collaboration, inquiry, and open-mindedness.

Information, communications/media, and technology literacy skills are as necessary to today's students and tomorrow's workers as English, math, and science. We believe these skills are most effectively learned when integrated throughout the curriculum.

Today's life and work environments require more than thinking skills and content knowledge. We must help students develop communication, conflict resolution, and responsible decision-making skills. We must help them to become respectful and reflective and to develop flexibility and adaptability, initiative and self-direction, social and cross-cultural skills, leadership and ethics, and personal and social responsibility.

These skills are most effectively developed through project-based, inquiry learning methods, in conjunction with direct instruction, which provides active and engaged learning where students are inspired to obtain a deeper knowledge of the subjects they are learning.

Our commitment to appropriate assessment of student learning represents our commitment to high academic standards and school accountability. In addition to standardized achievement testing, we believe students should also be assessed with measurements that evidence 21st century skill sets.

Students can only master 21st century skills when their teachers are well trained and supported in this type of instruction. We must support professional development that prepares teachers and principals to integrate 21st century skills into their classrooms and schools, to differentiate and personalize instruction for the diverse students in their classrooms and schools, and to support student-centered project and inquiry-based learning.

In order to ensure that every student in this District has the opportunity to learn these 21st century skills, we believe that all District schools should reflect the community in which we live, including the diversity of student learning levels and abilities, economic statuses, and cultures and ethnicities. Every teacher and principal must be prepared to provide the 21st century skills to every learner within their school.

We believe that parents and community groups are vital partners in achieving our goal of providing students these 21st century skills and will strive to communicate effectively with both regarding implementation of this world class educational program.