

MISSION STATEMENT AND VISION

The District's Mission and Vision are enduring guides to the Board of Education and the staff as they develop policy and regulations. In order for the mission and vision to be meaningful, they must not stand alone, but must be the foundation upon which we build our specific goals and objectives. These goals and objectives must be consistent with the District's Mission and Vision. The Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools strive to offer great breadth and depth in one of the most caring communities in the nation. We seek to develop the intelligences, potential, and interests of every child in our District. The 4 A's – Academics, the Arts, Athletics, and Activities – allow every child to be prepared not only to make a living, but also to live a high quality life.

SHARED VISION AND CORE VALUES

Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools is a caring learning community dedicated to developing an individual's academic, artistic, and athletic abilities, cultivating character and celebrating success. The Core Values of Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools include Respect, Honesty, Responsibility, Integrity, Kindness/Compassion, Caring and Trust.

The School District's primary mission is to provide a curriculum and a learning environment which are designed to maximize individual potential. At the same time, the District recognizes the differences among its students and strives to help each youngster achieve intellectual, social, physical and emotional growth. In addition to formalized courses, students are provided with opportunities and experiences to develop their intelligences and to facilitate their becoming responsible contributing members of society.

Therefore, we believe that the core subject areas of English, reading and language arts; mathematics; science; foreign languages; civics; government; economics; the arts; history; and geography should provide a firm foundation in basic skills and opportunities for expansive learning that includes vocational and career skills the District encourages through co-curricular activities and community service, in addition to purely academic pursuits, extending the learning of students.

Critical to success, the content areas of global awareness, financial, economic, business and entrepreneurial literacy, civic literacy and health and wellness will serve students in their futures.

Learning and thinking skills, comprised of critical thinking and problem solving, communication, creativity and innovation, collaboration, contextual learning and information and media literacy are essential skills for all 21st century learners.

Information and communication technology (ICT) literacy supports students in learning how to think, to think critically, to solve problems, to use information, to communicate, to innovate and to collaborate.

Life skills, the essential skills of leadership, ethics, accountability, adaptability, personal productivity, personal responsibility, people skills, self-direction and social responsibility, must be explicitly taught and sustained throughout an individual's life.

Authentic assessment that measures understanding of the core subjects and the acquisition of the skills and competencies above is the essential foundation of a 21st century education. Performance-based assessment facilitates evidence of understanding and transfer. Both formative and summative classroom assessments should provide multiple measures of student achievement and growth over time.

We believe that Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools can and should provide educational experiences for learners of all ages in our community. We actively promote and support inter-generational learning opportunities and experiences.

We believe that a skilled, enthusiastic and caring staff and an appropriate physical environment are essential to the realization of the District's mission. We encourage an emotional environment which will challenge, support and nurture our children.

The District recognizes, cultivates, earns and appreciates the support of the larger community in the education of all children in the Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools. "As the schools, so the community. And as the community, so the schools." We recognize that our schools and our community are vitally linked for the mutual benefit of our students, families and community members.

Source:

Partnership for 21st Century Skills. (2006). *Results that matter: 21st century skills and high school reform*. Tucson, AZ: Author.

Legal Reference: New York State Education Law, Section 1709
Old Policy 6121
Policy Adopted
11/14/85
New Policy 0001
Adopted March 17, 2010

In order for the Board of Education to effectively implement the District's Shared Vision and Mission in Policy 0001, the following student outcomes are to guide work with students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through grade 12. These student outcomes, developed by the *Educating the Future for the Future Steering Committee*, comprised of all stakeholder groups, and the District Leadership Team, are aligned with the skills in the core subject areas outlined in Policy 0001 and describe the desired competencies of a 21st Century learner in Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools.

Critical Thinking

Students will be able to. . .

- Organize, analyze and synthesize information from a variety of sources
- Formulate probing and essential questions
- Conduct research to collect and evaluate data, explore concepts and propose solutions to problems
- Argue persuasively with references to related sources and multiple perspectives
- Understand the dynamics of complex systems and the interconnections among parts of a system and between and among systems
- Transfer knowledge to new situations
- Reflect on their own thinking and learning.

Creativity

Students will be able to. . .

- Use current knowledge to identify and explore complex problems
- Take intellectual risks and engage in divergent thinking
- Imagine, design and produce original ideas and work
- Solve problems in innovative ways
- Transform and communicate diverse aspects of life and the human experience into aesthetic expressions.

Collaboration/Communication

Students will be able to. . .

- Engage in independent and shared learning with diverse groups (peers, younger/older students, adults)
- Work independently and on teams to solve problems
- Build team learning through the responsible use of technology and social media
- Master a broad range of forms of communication including active listening, effective writing, and purposeful speaking
- Develop and present results of individual and collaborative research, ensemble work, and the creative process in a variety of social settings.

Citizenship

Students will be able to. . .

- Make responsible, educated decisions with a global perspective
- Set goals and monitor progress to recognize and build upon strengths
- Act in an ethical manner
- Develop and practice empathy
- Make decisions with safety, health and wellness in mind
- Make sound, responsible financial decisions
- Take their places as informed and productive citizens in a diverse community, country and the world
- Live lives of purpose and contribution.

The above student outcomes serve to guide the development of curriculum, instruction assessment, and professional development.

Regulation Added: June 27, 2012