

# District 742 Learning Principles

## Are the Beliefs...

### Empowering & Motivating

- Students are motivated to learn when the differences in their prior knowledge, interests, strengths and learning styles are accommodated.
- Greater learning depends on the right blend of challenge and comfort.
- Teachers encourage intrinsic motivation in learners when learning tasks are of optimal novelty and difficulty, relevant to personal interests and provide for personal choice and control.
- Success is attainable; persistent efforts pay off.
- Continual learning is vital for all members of a learning community of excellence.

### Meaningful Learning

- The goal of all learning is to fluently and flexibly transfer knowledge to a variety of contexts.
- Meaning is essential for learning.
- Learning is an active process reflective of how individuals learn.
- Learning is to be connected to high and challenging standards related to learning goals.
- Past learning must be related to present and future learning; learning goals must make sense to both the teacher and the learner.
- Learning is to be connected to and have application with real world opportunities.

### Metacognition

- Metacognitive processes are learned and enhanced when explicitly modeled and taught.
- Successful learning requires self-reflection, self-assessment and self-adjustment.
- The learning of complex content is most effective when it is an intentional process of constructing meaning from experience and information.
- Students construct systems of meaning as they learn to learn.

## Which Drive The...

### Teaching Practices

- Teachers establish the support and implement the conditions needed for excellent work from all learners.
- Teachers draw upon a wide repertoire of instructional strategies which match the individual's learning needs.
- Learning is most effective when differences are accounted for with respect for all learner's linguistic, cultural and social backgrounds.
- Teachers assess the learner, as well as the learner's progress, using formative and summative assessments as integral parts of the learning process.

### Learner Practices

- Learning is a social activity influenced by interactions, interpersonal relationships and communication with others.
- Learners need a repertoire of thinking and reasoning strategies to achieve complex learning goals.
- Learners need multiple opportunities to interact with new information and to apply and practice new learning in a risk-free environment.
- Learners need multiple opportunities to receive and use regular and specific feedback related to their progress towards standards and individual learner goals.

## Which Results In...

# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

### All Learners are Capable of Excellent Work

District 742 Career Ladder Teachers, Principals and Administrators, February 2007

Based on *Leading by Design, Schooling By Design: Key Learning Principles*, Jay McTighe, 2006; Lauren Resnick, Director Learning Research and Development Center, University of Pittsburgh; American Psychological Association (1995)

*Learning-Centered Psychological Principles: A Framework For School Redesign and Reform.* Washington, DC