

PROMOTING EXCELLENCE FOR ALL - BELIEFS

Effective Instruction

We honor cultural backgrounds, acknowledge similarities, and provide diverse perspectives and multiple modalities for learning. We are critically aware of our own cultural identity and the ways it permeates our world views. We draw from the students' cultural backgrounds and experiences to connect to the curriculum. In our culturally responsive learning environments, students of color are valued, respected, and accepted as individuals. Students of color are provided equal access to a rigorous curriculum. The classroom environment empowers students to take risks.

Student-Teacher Relationships

We believe positive student-teacher relationships start with a safe, trusting, culturally responsive environment in which both students and teachers are empowered to have open conversations, share personal information, and create authentic connections to foster long-term relationships beyond the classroom. Open conversations about race, ethnicity, disabilities, and other modes of cultural competence should be infused into the classroom. We create a safe place to hear students' experiences and voices and that builds trust.

Family and Community Engagement

We believe new and different ways of engaging families based on mutual trust and respect are required because our schools belong to all. When we engage culturally and linguistically diverse families and communities, we feel we are making a difference because we are actively seeking out diverse families as partners who have valuable contributions to make toward the success of their children. Our schools are strengthened by a diverse community in which to live, work, and grow. In small and large ways, we commit to choose diversity.

School and Instructional Leadership

We believe that highly effective school and instructional leaders close race-based achievement gaps by empowering students of color to become actively engaged in their own learning. Students, staff, and families, who are supported and motivated by one another, form a community that embraces cultural differences and allows members to express themselves openly. This school community sets high expectations for all students, fosters a sense of belonging, infuses instruction with culturally relevant practices, and celebrates individual as well as group achievements.