

## ***Lynne Thigpen Elementary School's Shared Vision***

Lynne Thigpen Elementary School's Shared Vision provides the blueprint of what we hope to become in our pursuit of excellence. The staff is committed to providing an exemplary elementary education program that ensures all students attain the knowledge and skills necessary to (1) enter junior high school ready to succeed and (2) meet college and career readiness expectations by the end of high school.

### ***Leadership***

Leadership is about building relationships in order to influence others to take ownership in accomplishing rigorous goals. Exemplary schools require effective leaders – leaders who have tenacious ambition for the school and the students, who build the leadership capacity of the staff, who establish a culture in which all can learn, who build a *shared* vision that serves as a bridge between the school's present and the future it desires. In such a school, the leaders

- Promote, pursue and protect the school's vision on a daily basis with passion, pride and persistence.
- Model the vision through their actions by displaying integrity, sound judgment, knowledge and humility while holding themselves accountable for the success of students and staff.
- Establish priorities and focus that provide a sense of direction for the school.
- Encourage and promote an atmosphere of trust, support and appreciation.
- Communicate effectively and facilitate staff participation in the decision-making process.
- Promote an action orientation by encouraging individuals to participate in collaborative learning experiences, ongoing application and reflection.

### ***Staff***

A school can only be as good as the personnel that it employs. Therefore, an exemplary school recruits and retains exceptional individuals who respect, support, motivate and encourage the school community by going above and beyond to advance the shared vision. In such a school, all staff members:

- Work collaboratively with a sense of shared responsibility to support student learning, conduct and social emotional development by continuously reviewing and refining curriculum, instruction, student progress and school improvement initiatives in response to current data.
- Model respect for one another, treat each other as equal, valued members of the school community and embrace each other fairly with open hearts, hands, and minds.
- Are highly qualified and enthusiastic about teaching and learning for all students and themselves.
- Work together to provide a sincere, nurturing and safe environment for all.
- Maintain professional behaviors and attitudes that move us forward in achieving our vision.
- Read and discuss professional literature, set goals and learn from the strengths of each other.
- Model academic integrity and hold high expectations for themselves and students to ensure everyone attains academic and social success and leadership capacity.

### ***Curriculum and Instruction***

Curriculum is the roadmap and instruction is the vehicle to student achievement. In an exemplary school, curriculum and instruction, guided by specific, clearly stated and challenging goals, ensure all students experience success. The school systematically reviews this guaranteed and viable curriculum. In such a school:

- The staff values a diverse and balanced core curriculum that is aligned with the Common Core State Standards and outlines specific knowledge and skills students are to attain.
- Through curriculum mapping and thematic unit design, the teachers are leaders in aligning curriculum from grade to grade and subject to subject, ensuring that all students receive the highest quality of education.
- Functioning as a true professional learning community, teachers plan and administer common assessments with fidelity, closely monitor student progress and use assessment data to drive and improve instruction.

- Through a comprehensive Response to Intervention plan, the staff provides instructional support as needed, so that we meet the needs of every student at Lynne Thigpen Elementary School.
- As life long learners, the staff reflects on their instruction and also encourages students reflect on their learning.
- The staff utilizes research-based best practices in the classroom to address students' interests and learning styles and to promote higher-level thinking, independent learning.

### ***Climate***

An exemplary school provides a warm and inviting climate so that students and staff enjoy their school experience, resulting in a shared sense of pride in the school. In such a school the school community:

- Recognizes and celebrates individual effort and achievement, treats all individuals with respect and builds relationships characterized by caring and cooperation.
- Consistently enforces school rules and procedures which provide clear guidelines for student behavior.
- Commits to providing a clean and orderly environment that is emotionally and physically safe.

### ***Parents and Community***

Helping parents fully engage in the learning lives of their children is a necessary function of the school, and one that requires considerable attention. In order to maximize student success and the development of the whole child, an exemplary school engages parents and community members in partnerships built upon mutual respect, support and effective communication that leads to the school's positive presence and reputation in the greater community. In such a school:

- Parents are provided with a variety of opportunities to be actively involved in their children's education and the functions of the school, such as volunteering, parent-teacher conferences, PTO, parent workshops, family nights and intramural sports.
- Parents engage in regular, two-way communication with teachers and keep the school informed of significant events or factors that may impact learning.
- Parents take pride in the school. They understand and support the school's vision and core values by modeling respect for the school and staff and holding their children accountable to high standards of academic and social conduct. They make sure their children come to school on time and ready to learn every day.
- Parents help ensure a safe and orderly environment by cooperating with the school's policies and procedures.
- Community partnerships provide additional programming and services supporting the academic and social development of all students.

### ***Students***

In the final analysis, the effectiveness of a school is determined on the basis of the conduct, character, and achievement of its students. In an exemplary school, students:

- Take ownership for their learning, decisions, and actions.
- Demonstrate respect, consideration, and kindness towards others – staff, fellow students and visitors.
- Set challenging goals and actively participate in their education by putting forth their best effort.
- Enjoy attending school and are proud of their achievements.
- Form partnerships with their teachers to realize their full potential.
- Conduct themselves in a way that contributes to a safe, orderly, positive, school atmosphere, and ensures the rights of others.

***This vision document provides the “imagination” of what we hope to become, a blueprint for continuous improvement and the benchmarks by which we will evaluate our progress. We dedicate ourselves to these ideals.***