Ripon Area School District
Beliefs and Guiding Principles
Developed July 2018

RASD Beliefs and Guiding Principles

I. ABOUT LEARNERS AND LEARNING
   A. All learners can learn.
   B. Learners are diverse and require positive, validating relationships with learning facilitators and other learners.
   C. Successful learning cultivates continued success, which influences esteem, attitude, and motivation.
   D. Learner wisdom is enhanced by meaningful, real-life experiences requiring complex thinking.
   E. Learners acquire knowledge in different ways and different rates.
   F. Learning is fostered by frequent, formative, and transferable feedback.
   G. Mistakes are inherent in the learning process.
   H. Learning and curiosity are basic human drives.
   I. Learning is focused on cycles of continuous improvement.
   J. Learning is engaging in the moment and transferable to the future.

II. ABOUT TEACHERS AS LEARNING FACILITATORS AND LEARNING
   A. Learning Facilitators create the foundation for a safe, inclusive, and joyful classroom community.
   B. Learning Facilitators are the most important factor in fostering learners’ understanding.
   C. Learning Facilitators inspire, motivate, and empower learners.
   D. Learning Facilitators relate to and connect with learners.
   E. Learning Facilitation is collaborative and involves ongoing learning.
   F. Learning Facilitators are knowledgeable and proficient in pedagogy and human development.
   G. Teaching reflects the current research on learning and cognition.
   H. Teaching and learning are reciprocal and impact one another.
   I. Learning Facilitators are models of continuous learning and improvement.
   J. Learning Facilitators link learners with their past, present, and future learning.

III. ABOUT LEARNING COMMUNITIES
   A. All members of the Learning Community are committed to the mission, vision, and values of the District.
   B. Learning Communities are inclusive and embrace diversity.
   C. Students, families, staff, and the community are critical partners in educating Ripon students.
   D. Learning Communities align all systems, policies, and practices to support the principles that learners acquire knowledge in different ways and at different rates.
   E. Learning Communities have high expectations for all learners and all staff.
   F. Learning Communities encourage and support risk-taking and innovation.
   G. Learning Communities have a clear, shared purpose and direction.
   H. Communication in Learning Communities is frequent, open, and transparent.
   I. Learning Communities embrace reasoned analysis and strive for continuous improvement.
   J. Learning Communities encompass past, present, and future learning experiences.

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