

# Ripon Area School District

## Beliefs and Guiding Principles

Developed July 2018



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## 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.