

2110 PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION/SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Mission Statement

Link Community Charter School will provide an outstanding middle school education for learners of all academic abilities by developing the mind, body and spirit through a strong curriculum, experiential learning, immersion in the arts, and an enduring commitment to Core Values; this will allow them to be successful in competitive high schools and become responsible and resourceful citizens who give back to others.

Vision Statement

Link Community Charter School is a challenging and supportive environment that nurtures the whole child and engenders a love for learning. Students will demonstrate intellectual competence, social responsibility and commitment to their community. Link Community Charter School graduates will matriculate to competitive high schools that best match their individual needs and goals.

Implementation of the school's vision is achieved through the following key elements:

Outstanding Middle School Education: Adolescents of all academic abilities take a journey of discovery in a powerful learning community that enriches and develops each student's mind, body, and spirit. Students actively participate in the learning process, and faculty utilize a progressive approach with a commitment to high expectations and a positive environment. The program includes a strong core curriculum, vibrant arts education, experiential learning and opportunities that enhance and enrich students' lives.

Lifelong Values: The faculty and staff model and teach the Core Values of respect, responsibility, caring, honesty, doing one's best, and following directions. Students develop a strong character and moral compass with which to make decisions that impact their lives and the lives of others, and practice the Core Values.

High School Placement: Students possess a strong foundation of skills, knowledge, creativity, analytical thinking, problem-solving and lifelong values. Students receive admission to competitive high schools, including independent day and boarding, magnet, and parochial/archdiocesan schools. Students are successful in high school, college and beyond.



Social Justice: Students understand human rights for all people, as well as a commitment to caring for the Earth and toiling for peace. By sharing best practices and serving as a model school, Link Community Charter School works within the larger educational arena to support education reform and to improve access to high performing urban schools. The school teaches sustainable practices and respect for the Earth, and develops peaceful attitudes and actions in all members of the school community.

Educational Philosophy

Link Community Charter School's educational approach is student centered-informed by student needs and developed to support student growth with a deeply held belief that all children possess great talents and the capacity for strong performance and that it is the school's role to present the opportunity to learn and support the achievement of their full potential. Using a combination of traditional instruction and more progressive instructional approaches, Link creates an environment where students can grow and thrive and ultimately direct their own learning. Traditional instruction is seen in the classroom-based, teacher-driven activities that include lecture, question and answer, drills and practice, and explicit teaching of skills. This direct instruction slowly gives way to more independent study, problem solving, and small group activities. Ultimately, students develop knowledge and skills through experience and reflection with an emphasis on field learning in the outdoors, in a garden, or in a lab. Overall the aim of instruction is to arm students with the knowledge and skills to encounter new diverse experiences and be equipped to apply what they know to what they have never seen before.

School Culture

Link Community Charter School's positive school ethos delivers to all stakeholders a community grounded in its Core Values of caring, respect, honesty, responsibility, following directions and doing one's best. By valuing the community and the individual and developing a physically and emotionally safe place, all members are nurtured and held accountable for the expectations of the school. Instruction is delivered with positive engagement so as to invite every student on a journey of discovery. Discipline is delivered in a respectful way to engender self-reflection and growth. Positive motivation and affirmative attitudes are emphasized to develop an awareness of greatness and potential in each and every student, as they set goals and ultimately demonstrate achievement. Gratitude and openness to individual gifts and contributions engender cooperation and acceptance. Appreciation of culture and the arts provide opportunities for creative expression and problem solving. An awareness of the limitless possibilities support risk-taking and growth for every student. The ethos embraces every child, no matter their learning style or level of academic achievement. These basic tenets underlie every aspect of Link Community Charter School. They promote academic. Achievement and personal growth. We believe our students will succeed, and we accept the responsibility to create the right environment to support that success.

Adopted: 10 June 2014

