

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

As a school corporation of Nebraska, the Heartland Community School District, acting through its School Board, is dedicated to promoting an equal opportunity for a quality public education to its students within the limitations of the school district's ability and willingness to furnish financial support to provide for students in cooperation with their parents and the school district community, the opportunity to develop a healthy social, intellectual, emotional, and physical self-concept in a learning environment that provides guidance to and encourages critical thinking in the students for a lifetime.

Education is a right, a privilege, and an obligation. It is the most fundamental premise of a democratic political system. This presupposition of an educated electorate entitles all citizens of a democracy to an education. The society which does not value a trained intelligence is doomed; it is, therefore, the duty of every citizen to educate himself/herself to his/her maximum capacity. Education is a sacred privilege that must be treasured, safeguarded, and nurtured so that it might never be lost.

It is the duty of the school to establish standards which will challenge the pupils and guide the teachers. The school's diploma should be earned through honest achievement so that it might be valued by students and by other institutions. Nevertheless, standards should be flexible enough to allow for a maximum range of student possibilities. School policies should always exist for the benefit of the pupil. Teaching principles should be well-grounded in accepted areas of child psychology and educational philosophy. Teaching methods should be flexible enough to adapt to modern innovations without abandoning proven techniques.

The school is concerned with and involved in every aspect of student growth. Thus the curriculum and the activity program should be integrated to provide experiences in the humanities, scholarship, physical activity, spiritual life, and democratic processes. The school facility should strive to accommodate the needs of every child. Therefore, teachers must be aware of individual interests and provide sound learning situations. The real relationship between teacher and pupil should always be one of communication and mutual respect.

The teacher's role is to transmit knowledge, stimulate thought, and encourage mental, physical, and emotional growth. The teacher is personally an example for the pupils to emulate; it is therefore mandatory that his/her own conduct be beyond reproach. The teacher should be available to the pupil and to the community, but he/she ought not be over-burdened with excessive clerical and civic duties.

In keeping with his/her responsibilities, however, the teacher should adopt and stimulate an attitude of constructive patriotism which is never blind, but which is conducive to a

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