



St. Vrain Valley School District

Learning Principles

“Schooling can be coherent and effective only if staffs craft and honor principles of learning that derive from mission, research, and best practice (Wiggins and McTighe 2007).

Context

1. Learning and the construction of meaning is an active process.
2. Learning is most effective when it is relevant, personalized, and accommodates differences in prior knowledge, preferences, insights, and strengths, while honoring diversity.
3. Learning is a continuous cycle of uncovering and exploring misconceptions to create new meaning.

Environment

1. Learning happens when we provide an educationally stimulating, safe environment where learners express themselves through: thinking, writing, speaking, discussing, listening, deconstructing, composing, inventing, and evaluating.
2. Relevance, rigor, and relationships are the keys to motivation and engagement in learning.
3. All learners are capable of excellent work when the right conditions for learning exist: respect individual dignity and encourage open and full participation in academic and extra curricular activities.

Instruction and Assessment

1. The windows of opportunity should always remain open until a student reaches mastery of standards.
2. Learners need multiple opportunities to explore, practice, and revisit ideas through hands-on and relevant real-world learning experiences.
3. The complexity of learning requires teachers to draw upon a rich repertoire of teaching and assessing strategies carefully matched to learning goals.

Metacognition

1. Students and teachers should use explicit strategies to think about their thinking and learning.
2. Metacognition includes the use of questions to prompt thinking, reflection, self-assessment, and feedback to self-adjust.

Transfer

1. The goal of all learning is a fluent and flexible transfer with application of content knowledge to deepen understanding that connects isolated facts and skills to past, present, and future experiences.

Life Long Learners

1. As a model learning community, learning by every member of the community (adults and students) is required.
2. Continuous learning is vital for individual and organizational success.