

TENAFLY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mission

The Tenafly School District will offer meaningful and challenging educational experiences for each and every student within a stimulating, safe and nurturing environment, in order for them: to discover and develop their potential, to develop intellectual curiosity and a love of learning, to understand and promote democratic values, and to become contributing members of the local and global communities in which they will live. The Tenafly Public Schools will preserve a tradition of excellence while modeling exemplary practices in the education of students for a 21st Century global society.

(Board Adopted)

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- I. To provide learning experiences and opportunities in which students can acquire and apply knowledge and skills; explore personal interests and questions; refine communication skills; and celebrate common goals and individual achievement;
- II. To promote a love of learning, as well as an appreciation for human culture, artistic expression, self-expression, the natural world, physical fitness, athletic achievement and teamwork;
- III. To encourage student capacity for critical and creative thinking and for applying thinking skills to the solution of real-life problems;
- IV. To help students grow in self-awareness and self-direction by helping them explore and build their talents, personal goals and abilities to contribute to the communities in which they learn;
- V. To help students become increasingly aware of and sensitive to the needs, viewpoints and experiences of others and to encourage ethical behavior that respects and promotes the dignity and rights of others;
- VI. To encourage students to identify and to explore problems and issues in the world today, including those related to the environment, politics and society and to consider their personal connection and response to these topics;
- VII. To cultivate and to sustain communities in which school citizens learn and practice the belief that informed participation benefiting the common good is essential to our democratic system;
- VIII. To provide hands-on and experiential learning activities;
- IX. To extend the educational process beyond the walls of our schools;
- X. To support rich and effective professional development that is driven by district needs and encourages reflection and growth;
- XI. To advocate for the use of best practices;
- XII. To recognize that an effective professional development program improves the instruction of students as evidenced by qualitative and quantitative data;
- XIII. To upgrade and to maintain facilities to accommodate the possibilities and demands of increased student populations and a technologically changing world;
- XIV. To operate with fiscal responsibility and wisdom, maintaining awareness that funds should be used toward the ultimate goal of maximizing the learning experiences of our students; and
- XV. To plan for the future by maintaining and working toward both short- and long-term goals.