

2110 PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION/DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Mission Statement

The Ridgewood Public Schools, committed to a tradition of excellence and innovation, in partnership with the community, provide a rich and challenging learning environment, enabling students to maximize their unique potential to become lifelong learners and productive, responsible citizens.

"Maximizing the Unique Potential of Every Learner"

A. Core Values

1. Partnership We are a community of citizens, parents, staff, and students deeply committed to education.
2. Respect We embrace and celebrate our diversity and individuality.
3. Innovation We encourage and support continuous improvement and lifelong learning.
4. Dedication We are professionals, committed and dedicated to meet each student's needs.
5. Excellence We are committed to a "Tradition of Excellence" - from the classroom and operations to the Boardroom.

B. Our Beliefs

1. We believe that all children are learners and that they learn in different ways.
2. We believe children should learn how to think analytically, creatively, and critically.
3. We believe learners flourish when they feel respected and are challenged and motivated in an environment that is nurturing and safe.
4. We believe in the important role of the community and family to nurture children and provide them with values and guidance.



5. We believe education is a collaborative effort among family, schools, and community.
6. We believe that education requires outstanding teachers and staff who continually refine and renew their professional expertise.
7. We believe that facilities and resources have an impact on learning.
8. We believe community support is vital to our public schools.
9. We believe the arts are an essential component of a student's education.
10. We believe the physical, social, and emotional wellness of children impact learning.

C. Envisioned Future

Ridgewood Public Schools will be nationally recognized for excellent educational programs in each of the strategic goal areas:

1. Design Area 1.0: Standards, Assessment & Expectations
 - a. We honor our beliefs when:
 - (1) All school district stakeholders have clearly defined roles and expectations for establishing standards to assess student performance and offer meaningful ways to learn.
 - (2) Ridgewood is a place that instills a love of learning as well as cultural and ethnic understanding, where all students are eager learners and find personal satisfaction through achievement, and where the curriculum is meaningful to all.
 - (3) The values of integrity, respect and trust are our cornerstones, and staff, faculty, students, and parents are working together with community support.



2. Design Area 2.0: Learning Environments

a. We honor our beliefs when:

- (1) We honor individual strengths, and foster creativity, civility, and independence in all student.
- (2) We are passionate about high achievement for all students, as they become self-directed, respectful learners.
- (3) We strive for a balance between site and central decision-making, reasonable class sizes with well-trained professionals, effective materials and technology.

3. Design Area 3.0: High Performance Leadership

a. We honor our beliefs when:

- (1) Ridgewood has an effective quality improvement partnership between school district and Village.
- (2) We provide all of our students, employees and citizens with quality services and training.
- (3) We leverage our resources and services effectively between the school district and Village.

4. Design Area 4.0: Community Services and Support

a. We honor our beliefs when:

- (1) We insure that all community services, resources and opportunities are made readily available to all community members, as determined by community feedback and input.
- (2) We provide high quality, diversified and responsible community services, designed to meet relevant community needs.
- (3) We have connected, well-informed community members who derive positive benefits from having full access to community programs and services.



5. Design Area 5.0: Parent & Public Engagement

a. We honor our beliefs when:

- (1) We have a comprehensive and dynamic information system that empowers the community and schools to support and advance Ridgewood's "Tradition of Excellence".
- (2) We value students as community treasures and express this through effective two-way communication that inspires and motivates us all towards excellence.
- (3) Ridgewood schools play an integral role in all parts of community life.

It is the expectation of the Ridgewood Public Schools that all students achieve the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards at all grade levels.

Adopted: 7 December 2009

