

Blue Hill Consolidated School Statement of Philosophy

We, the citizens of the Blue Hill Consolidated School, are committed to providing a well-rounded education that prepares each student, academically and personally, to be a responsible, creative, self-motivated, and thoughtful citizen of our community, nation, and world.

School Climate and Personal Conduct

We believe that childhood should be a wonderful time in a person's life, full of excitement and wonder, and that physical, emotional, and social development are all important aspects of every student's education. Our school will provide a wide range of curricular and extra-curricular experiences to nurture the whole child and will foster the personal qualities of kindness, patience, honesty, self-esteem, and consideration for all.

We will help students become self-disciplined by clarifying the rights and responsibilities of all members of the school community, helping students develop effective conflict resolution skills, and involving them in decision making. The professional staff will develop, communicate, and consistently enforce discipline guidelines that reinforce personal responsibility and support a positive school climate. The school's Declaration of Interdependence explains the rights and responsibilities of students.

Instructional Program

Because children have unique learning styles, learn at different rates, and may be at different developmental stages, we will provide diverse, flexible, and personalized programming that challenges each student to work toward his/her fullest potential. We will encourage students to be deeply involved in their learning, to become imaginative and creative thinkers, and to learn in ways that reflect the integration of knowledge.

Our instructional program is based on the belief that students should:

- develop competence in the basic skills and acquire a broad base of knowledge in reading, oral and written communication, mathematics, the arts, literature, social studies, health and wellness, science, and physical education;
- gain knowledge of and respect for our American heritage and traditions;
- gain knowledge of and respect for world cultures and traditions;
- develop a respect for open inquiry and informed, critical reasoning;
- learn to use a variety of traditional and technological means to gather and analyze information;
- develop a sense of appreciation and stewardship for our environment;
- acquire effective and adaptable work habits appropriate to the changing nature of work;
- develop the ability to work collaboratively and cooperatively with others;
- demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways both in the school and the community; and
- develop a life-long love of learning.

We will also help students make a smooth transition to high school through cooperation with local secondary schools.

Student Assessment

Assessment will include report cards and other practices that enable students and parents to evaluate ongoing student progress in relation to clear descriptions of competency levels. We will encourage students to set individual learning goals and develop the capacity to evaluate their own work and progress.

Staff Development

We believe that the professional staff should evaluate their teaching practices and employ time-tested as well as innovative methods based on individual and collaborative goal setting and research-the ultimate objective being an improved instructional program for all students. We will encourage teamwork. Support staff will also be encouraged to update their skills and apply to the school setting new developments in such areas as technology.

Community Involvement

In order to implement this philosophy, we believe that our school must secure the involvement of parents and community members. We will strive for frequent and open communication and close cooperation between the school, home, and community. To take advantage of the wealth of educational resources and opportunities available in our area, we will encourage parents, community members, and students to volunteer. We believe that our school is an asset to be used and shared by the entire community.

The School Committee fully accepts the responsibility of formulating policies and seeking adequate funding to support the educational process. The School Committee will always consider the welfare of students as the single most important factor in setting educational policy. The beliefs expressed in this statement will guide the daily work of and long-term planning for the Blue Hill Consolidated School.

Adopted: Blue Hill School Committee - January 8, 1975

Amended: Blue Hill School Committee - March 9, 1994

Amended: Blue Hill School Committee - February 9, 2005