Guiding Principles articulate a school’s vision, values, hopes and ideals to the design team. Guiding Principles will be used to “test” the decisions that are made throughout the design process, since every element of the building must be created to support the school’s vision and values.

1. Learning in the 21st century is collaborative, experiential, and student-centered, using cutting-edge resources while honoring the historic traditions of the fine arts.

2. The supportive environment of trust, safety, and flexibility enhances creativity, independence, self-discipline, and the interpersonal relationships of administrators, staff, and students.

3. HSPVA serves as a beacon of creativity, drawing support from its family, its traditions, and the extended arts community, guiding our students as they go on to contribute responsibly and thoughtfully to creative endeavors in our city and around the world.

4. The student centered learning environment provides for both communal and personal introspective activities, which facilitate the generating, reflecting and sharing of ideas and the presentation of student performances and art work, as well as the collaboration between arts, academics and the community.

5. The progressive, process oriented curriculum and instruction, paired with high expectations develops students’ knowledge and skills preparing them to be creative problem solvers in a competitive, artistic and academic world.