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.

**Young Men’s College Preparatory Academy’s Guiding Principles:**

I. **Innovation:**

A new way of doing something that results in improved value or quality. It employs "out-of-the-box" thinking to generate positive changes in thinking, products, processes, organizations, and society. It makes creative thinking a useful reality.

I. **Innovation Indicators**
- Creativity
- Inspiring
- Unique
- Fun and Enriching
- Advanced Technology

II. **Functional:**

The kind of action or activity proper to a person, thing, or institution; the purpose for which something is designed or exists or its role.

II. **Functional Indicators**
- Building functions as a teaching tool
- Flexible structures
- Structures that lend themselves to instruction
- Fluid layout
- Boy friendly
- Thematic facility

III. **Community:**

Self-organized network of people with common agenda, cause, or interest, who collaborate by sharing ideas, information, and other resources.

**Community Indicators**
- Safe
- Parent friendly
- Community friendly
- Open to all
- Green – Eco friendly
- Inviting