

Guiding Principles: North Houston Early College High School

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.

North Houston Early College High School's Guiding Principles:

Relevance – Through the development of soft skills, communication skills, and academic acumen, we strive to build a culture where everything the students do is relevant to their education. To that end, we look for a building which is conducive to project based learning and which is equipped with spaces that assist in the creation and presentation of class projects. This includes the technology necessary to research, print, produce, and present projects to large and small audiences.

Rigor – As an early college, our courses are advanced level and dual credit. Our students need access to fully operational science labs, computer labs with net support software, and a media center which is accessible to multiple classes at the same time.

Relationship – The students, teachers, and parents at NHECHS/HCC work in a communal relationship. Our building should be one which promotes teacher collaboration, contains common areas which are visible from a number of perspectives, and provides opportunities for supervised instruction where there are windows and walls which allow staff/administration to see and connect with students during the school day. Moreover, our students and staff will continue to build relationships through intramural sports activities such as archery, soccer, basketball, and volleyball and through the teambuilding activities generated in Physical Education. We need a building therefore, that will accommodate physical activities indoors and utilize any green space outside of the building for the same purpose.

Responsibility – We strive to make our students responsible for their own education. The college atmosphere at HCC is mimicked on the campus of NHECHS. Therefore, we need a building which contains common study areas which are wired and equipped for computer usage in any number of locations. Time spent between college classes should be utilized in educational pursuits without interrupting the instruction of the students who are in high school classes. Likewise, classroom walls, removable or stationary should be sound proof so that other classes and students without classes are not disturbed.