

# Guiding Principles: Dowling Middle 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.

## **Dowling Middle School's Guiding Principles:**

- Learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century embodies scholars who are critical thinkers and problem solvers who are able to think on their feet, are flexible to change, and use a variety of tools to solve problems so that they are able to compete in the global economy.
- Collaborative, cooperative working spaces nurture and foster creativity and intellectuality with flexible furniture, learning centers, and electronic interactive boards.
- The design must be functional, adaptable and continue to serve the instructional needs of our scholars and continued curiosity of our learners as instruction and technology evolve.
- There must be a direct connection between school and home in an effort to establish Dowling Middle School as an anchor in our community. A safe and secure environment will be a primary asset in this effort.
- Instructional practices, such as project based learning, that encourage students to think globally, diversely, and eco-friendly are implemented with fidelity. Students are encouraged to interact and learn in collaboration with their fellow learners.
- 100% involvement of our scholars whereas students participate actively in their own success is expected—no excuses!