



Guiding Principles: North Forest High School

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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 Forest High School's Guiding Principles:

WE BELIEVE THAT EVERYTHING WE DO SHOULD PREPARE STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE AND/OR CAREER. Every day students should leave our campus wiser and with strengthened character.

SMALL SCHOOLS ARE THE BEST PLACES TO DEVELOP CARING COMMUNITIES OF LEARNERS. We like the atmosphere of a small school that has been developed into a positive, healthy community. We seek to create that small school atmosphere by developing interest based academies within a small learning community.

OUR SCHOOLS ARE COMMUNITIES OF LEARNERS. We define a community as a place where each individual is important and has something valuable to contribute to others in the community. We believe that learning is a lifelong activity. Our school should reflect our belief in collaborative learning.

ONE OF OUR HIGHEST PRIORITIES IS KEEPING CLASS SIZES SMALL. Working with students in smaller groups increases opportunities for learning, personal attention, a sense of belonging and the development of a supportive classroom community.

WE CARE ABOUT STUDENTS AND OUR HISTORY. We believe that each student should be given the opportunity to be educated in a physically and emotionally safe, personalized, and caring environment. We believe the communities' history should be taught and celebrated.

WE BELIEVE THAT SCHOOLS SHOULD BE EQUIPED WITH RELEVANT TECHNOLOGY. Students in the 21st century will use technology regularly as a part of their college and/or career experiences. We believe our school should be a training ground for this skill.

WE ARE RESPONSIBLE TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY. Our schools are the centers of the community. We actively seek community involvement. And, we respond to community needs.

WE BELIEVE LEARNING EXTENDS WELL BEYOND THE CLASSROOM. Our educational program is enriched and extended with opportunities provided within the community.

WE UPHOLD TRADITIONAL VALUES SUCH AS RESPECT, PERSONAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, HONESTY, AND HARD WORK. We model socially responsible behavior, expect it from each student and make it part of our curriculum.