

Federal Hocking Local Schools

Our Mission

The Federal Hocking School District uses a progressive approach to help all young people become productive and engaged citizens. Our graduates will be creative thinkers and problem solvers, able to make positive choices about their careers, education, and community.

Operating Principles

In order to fulfill our mission, we embrace the following operating principles:

As an educational community we know children learn when:

*they are actively engaged in a variety of tasks including exploration, play, reading, research conversation, and invention;

*they are in an environment where they feel safe and supported, where their social-emotional and physical health needs are met, and where they are not afraid to fail knowing they will be given more chances to succeed;

*they have a personal connection to or interest in what they are learning and can see how it applies in the world in which they live;

*they are encouraged to think for themselves, to reflect upon their work, to make appropriate choices and to build connections to prior learning;

*they receive ongoing feedback, see and share models of expected outcomes, feel competent and not overwhelmed, and are provided with time for monitored practice;

*they are exposed to a wide variety of learning experiences, materials, technologies, and environments.

In responding to how children learn, our classrooms will be...

*child centered, flexible learning environments with multiple resources and technologies, and full of displays of student work;

*learning communities where children feel respected, safe, and well-known;

*environments that enhance communication, collaboration, engagement and enjoyment;

*flexible, but with established routines and shared norms, and a balance of learning activities;

*comfortable places for students to ask questions, learn to make choices, and engage in both individual and group work;

*utilizing authentic and performance assessments in order to modify and adapt instruction and reporting student progress to parents in ways that are easily understood and reflect student development;

*inviting to parents, family members, and our communities as they too are valued resources in the learning process.

To support such classrooms, our schools will be...

*filled with the voices of kids and where their natural excitement and curiosity is nurtured and accepted;

*places where teachers are encouraged to collaborate and are provided time to do so, hold consistent beliefs on how children learn and share a collective responsibility for the welfare of all students;

*exemplified by a climate of mutual respect and trust among all community members, focused on positive behavior as opposed to punishment;

*flexible in terms of age-grouping, schedules, classrooms, and curriculum, all based on student needs;

*focused on the whole-child, her/his social, emotional, physical, and intellectual well-being;

*filled with exhibitions of student work and activities in all areas with regular times for school-wide gatherings and celebrations;

*concerned with more than just test scores, knowing that every child is more than a test score;

*open and welcoming to all parents, encouraging their active involvement;

*supportive of teachers, providing focused professional development to help teachers create, develop, and expand child-centered, thought provoking and engaging classroom practices using a wide range of instructional strategies and educational technologies.

The district in support of these schools, is committed to...

*nurturing and encouraging a purposeful, common vision across our district through focused goals and action plans that allow for staff to do their work well;

*utilizing available resources and searching for additional resources to support this common vision as well as to provide appropriate staffing, teaching resources (including technology, texts, materials, and access to the world outside of school), and time for teachers to collaborate;

*listening to and responding to the needs of staff to carry out our shared visions;

*supporting the development of an infrastructure where teachers and students have access to current technologies, learning tools, and the world beyond the schools;

*encouraging and expecting that staff will take unique and flexible approaches to our shared goals and vision;

*providing a focused, district-wide professional development program consistent with our vision that is effective, meaningful, and sustainable;

*communicating with our community and with policy makers about our schools' programs, successes, and needs;

*supporting the economic and civic health of our communities;

*communicating regularly with our educational community in ways that include all staff and provides the information necessary for collaborative decision making.