



2019-2020 Instructional Focus: Student Engagement

Cultivating a Growth Mindset *through* Culturally Responsive & Inclusive Instruction

Our Schoolwide Instructional Focus is a collective goal that creates a common language, inspires collaboration, and directly impacts teacher practice and student performance. As we work together to foster students' advanced literacy skills in culturally responsive ways, all members of our school community will strive to embrace challenges, persevere in the face of setbacks, and regard effort as an essential path toward mastery.

Students will:

- Experience caring and inclusive classroom communities in which their cultural identities are fully respected, embraced and valued, so they feel safe and comfortable taking intellectual risks (*Danielson 2a*)
- Formulate questions, initiate topics, and respectfully challenge one another's thinking in an environment free of judgment where mistakes are viewed as essential to the learning process (*Danielson 3b*)
- Engage in meaningful learning activities through which they gain awareness of individual and collaborative processes that support critical thinking, high quality work products and the development of 21st Century literacies (*Danielson 3c*)
- Articulate personal, social and academic goals, and monitor their growth as learners through ongoing processes of assessment, feedback and reflection that take into account the complex identity of each learner (*Danielson 3d*)

Teachers will:

Get to know each student well within a culturally responsive classroom that fosters growth mindsets for all students

- How will we model cultural responsiveness in our daily interactions with students and with each other?
- How will we use both quantitative and qualitative data about each student to inform core instruction?
- How will we provide access to core instruction for students with diverse cultural identities and learning needs?
- How will we meet individual learners where they are while setting high expectations for the social, emotional and intellectual growth of all students?

Strengthen core instructional practices to leverage the assets that students bring to the classroom

- How will we structure rigorous lessons that provide opportunities for students to engage with significant concepts, explain their thinking, reflect upon their learning, and consolidate their understanding?
- How will we ensure that students receive appropriate supports in the context of rigorous, grade-level instruction?
- How will we use complex questions and collaborative protocols to advance critical thinking and high level discourse?
- How will we use flexible groupings, multiple entry points and differentiated resources to support the growth of students with diverse cultural identities, learning styles, readiness levels and academic needs?
- How will we work collaboratively to ensure that all students are fully engaged and all voices are heard in the classroom?

Use a shared and inclusive curriculum to accelerate learning for all students

- How will we modify our shared curriculum to meet the personal, cultural and academic needs of our students?
- How will we select and utilize high quality instructional materials that support and extend our core curriculum?
- How will we ensure horizontal and vertical coherence so consistent content and skills are taught and reinforced across classrooms, leading to the cyclical development of grade-level knowledge and competencies?

School Leadership will:

- Provide opportunities for professional learning and ongoing inquiry processes that will foster a collective understanding of Advanced Literacy Skills and Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education
- Facilitate a shared growth mindset culture by promoting clear, consistent, equitable and rigorous expectations for culturally responsive teaching and learning across all classrooms
- Model the values of collaboration, respect and trust that will support rigorous, culturally responsive and inclusive instruction and the cultivation of growth mindset among all members of the school community

Parents and families will:

- Participate in activities and events that reflect and celebrate multiple aspects of their cultural identities
- Learn to praise children not only for successful outcomes, but for problem-solving, persistence and progress
- Maintain open lines of communication and reinforce children's cultural identities at home as well as at school