

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Background

The Mt. Lebanon School Board recognizes that public education is a public trust and accepts the primary responsibility for providing learning experiences appropriate for school-age youth in accord with the rights and privileges of Mt. Lebanon residents. Public education is one of the most important assets of our community, enhanced by our neighborhood schools.

Objectives

The purpose of public education in the District is both to challenge and to assist each student in his/her efforts to fulfill his/her potential and become a contributing, responsible member of our changing society. The goals of the Board are to provide the highest possible quality education within the limits of its financial resources and to act in the best interests of students.

Policy

It is the policy of the Board to promote the philosophy that education is a continuous process that involves the acquisition and application of knowledge, skills and a responsible attitude toward learning. The District will be organized to provide varied and adaptable educational programs to accommodate students who vary in ability, aptitude, cultural background and motivation.

Education should be intellectual in its direction, individualized in its approach, demanding in its efforts, character-building in its nature, humane in its treatment, and scientific in its method. The goal of our schools is to prepare students to be self-directed, creative life-long learners and responsible citizens.

Education is a shared responsibility among the students, schools, families and community. Sound educational decisions are best made when staff, students and parents/guardians work collaboratively to aid student learning. This partnership with families and community strives to motivate and assist each student:

- To acquire the knowledge, skills, habits and experiences necessary to be productive in a global society;
- To utilize strategies to enhance personal wellness;
- To develop critical thinking skills and use problem-solving strategies;
- To develop self-discipline;
- To accept responsibility, acquire self-reliance and develop leadership skills;
- To formulate social and ethical values consistent with living in a democratic society;
- To appreciate the value of individual effort;
- To learn to adapt to change;
- To learn to collaborate with others; and
- To gain a fundamental knowledge that will serve as a basis for further development.

In accordance with the District's mission to provide the best education possible for each and every student, we believe that:

- Every individual has a unique combination of abilities and attributes that when recognized, nurtured and challenged help him/her achieve his/her full potential;
- Each individual has worth and deserves dignity and respect;
- All students can be successful learners;
- Successful learning builds self-esteem;
- Excellence in education is worth the commitment of time, effort and money;
- Learning is most effective in a safe, caring environment, taught by highly qualified teachers;
- High expectations directly affect performance;
- An educated citizenry is vital to a strong foundation for a democratic society;

It is the responsibility of elected school board members to define clearly the direction of the educational program, as proposed by professional staff, through policy and strategic planning and to see that policy is adhered to through planned evaluation activities. Policies of the Board can be most clearly translated into an educational program if its policy is executed through the administrative staff, and through this leadership, to the entire staff.

The District values varied curricular areas, contributing to a broad educational experience.

The use of representative, non-political advisory groups at various levels of operation is advantageous to the decision-making process.

Support services are of value to the achievement of District goals. Therefore, the District will offer such services to the extent that they directly assist the student in the attainment of educational goals.

All experiences of the learner have educational potential and are not confined solely to formal curriculum. The District values extra-curricular activities that support the goals of the formal curriculum and needs of students.

Accountability for quality of the instructional program is best met through a continuing process of evaluation, research, data review, program development and professional development education activities.

School facilities are educational tools that should be maintained as carefully as any other instructional tool used in the educational program.

Administrative Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the Administration to implement and enforce this policy, and to develop Administrative Procedures for implementation or enforcement where necessary.

Communication

This policy shall be communicated to:

1. District Staff
2. The Mt. Lebanon Community

Adopted November 23, 1971
Revised September 17, 1973
Revised February 18, 1974
Revised September 26, 1977
Revised September 19, 2005
Revised May 22, 2017