

# Stamford Public Schools Anchor

SPS Anchor is a **small-by-design** learning environment that provides a **consistent and safe space** for students who may learn at different paces and may thrive in nontraditional settings.

Anchor operates with an **asset-based mindset** and **prioritizes relationships**, makes decisions based on student's individual needs, and facilitates instruction through **mastery-based approach**.

***Our goal is to provide students the space, time, and confidence to discover their strengths and to prepare for future success.***

## PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE



### Collaborative Contributors

We add value wherever we go. We are self-aware team members who celebrate and utilize our unique talents and strengths while empowering others to unleash their own.



### Capable Managers of Knowledge

We are curious people who are knowledgeable about the world. We know how to apply knowledge to achieve our personal goals as well as contribute to the betterment of society.



### Motivated, Lifelong Learners

We are self-driven, self-directed, and curious learners – about ourselves and about the world. We invent our own learning paths, careers, and lives.



### Confident and Resilient Leaders

We feel empowered to take risks and explore the world. We have ability to overcome obstacles and hardships and turn them into opportunities for growth – for ourselves and for others.



### Critical Thinkers and Problem Solvers

We thrive in ambiguous situations. We make sense of conflicting knowledge, create ideas in new situations, and reframe problems from different perspectives.



### Kind and Empathic Human Beings

We grow and sustain relationships with others through a spirit of mutual respect and understanding. We strive to create and promote positive, healthy environments for interaction.

## Respect | Kindness | Integrity | Excellence | Reason

Our portrait of a graduate lays the foundation for purpose-driven learning at Anchor. This collection of knowledge, skills, and dispositions allows all students to have clarity about why their learning matters to their future success.

## INSTRUCTIONAL APPROACH

Classroom instruction at Anchor is personalized to a students' individual needs and aligned to a mastery-based framework that allows for students to show what they know in authentic and meaningful ways before progressing to new learning. Our [instructional look-fors](#) offer school leaders and teachers the opportunity to establish clarity around strategies that create the conditions for the best possible learning experience for students.

## HEAR FROM OUR STUDENTS

"Help is always there when you need it."

"I love coming in every morning, being greeted by teachers. They will always check up on you. If you miss [school] they will check. They really care about you."

"At my last school I was always stressed with the expectations and timelines. At Anchor I they find a way to work with me."

"I wouldn't be the man I am today if it wasn't for this school."