



Superintendent's HOPE Note - December 2022

The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education. -Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Critical Thinking : What is It? Why do Learners Need It?

Developing critical thinking is relevant not only for work but also for life. Today we are inundated with vast amounts of information every day, and in order to be able to analyze this information and determine our position based on balanced facts, it is necessary to look at situations critically.

Critical thinking allows you to soberly assess the situations taking place in the workplace, give an objective assessment of all factors (including your own actions and the actions of others), effectively negotiate and find the best way out of ambiguous situations. That is why large companies, when hiring employees, pay close attention to the soft skills of a candidate, especially if they are applying for top positions.

-T. Melnichuk (2022), *Forbes*. Critical Thinking : What is it and how can you develop this skill?

In a Nutshell. . .



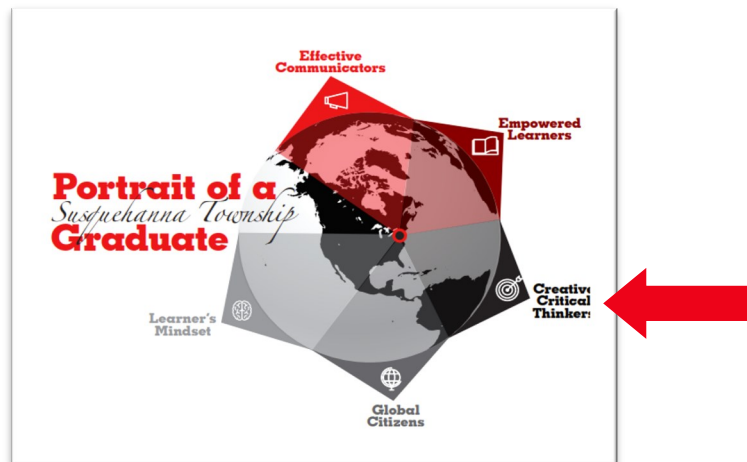
Visit the district's webpage to see the [Strategic Plan](#) and the full [Portrait of a Graduate](#)

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Graduate Characteristic: **Creative Critical Thinkers**

According to our *Portrait of a Graduate*, Creative Critical Thinkers. . .

- Demonstrate originality, imagination, and new ways of thinking about things.
- Transcend traditional ideas, rules, patterns, and relationships to create new or meaningful ideas, methods, or interpretations.
- Understand the bigger picture and process solutions that are mindful of the impact they may have on other parts of a system.
- Consistently improve the quality of one's own thinking by skillfully analyzing, assessing, and reconstructing.
- Apply disciplined thinking that is clear, rational, open-minded, and informed by evidence.



CONGRATULATIONS Graham Kerrick, High School Music Teacher!

Graham is the winner of a \$50 gift card for his example submitted in response to November's Portrait of a Graduate, *Empowered Learners*.

Graham's entry: *I see this all the time in the band classes. Specifically when the middle school advanced band students come in to the beginner band rehearsals and help those younger students learn how to assemble instruments, how to play certain notes, and demonstrate how the music should sound.*

Piece of the Puzzle



We Need YOU!

Did you know that our Piece of Puzzle is selected through staff recommendations? We need your input.

Do you know someone who deserves to be recognized for their contributions to our district? Let the superintendent know and they will be featured as a Piece of the Puzzle. Let's celebrate each other! 😊