

Governance Process *Ends* Monitoring –Board Policy 2020  
Fundamental 4

Fundamental 4 – *Encourage and enable students to be academic entrepreneurs and risk-takers who can choose to pursue academic passions and interests beyond traditional curriculum and beyond the traditional classroom environment*

**Superintendent’s Interpretation :**

Mercer Island School District is committed to balancing academic, creative and innovative thinking, fuelled by an entrepreneurial spirit. We are expanding student, parent and teacher thinking by having students share in the responsibility for their learning, with opportunities to learn about what sparks their imagination, ingenuity and drive. The following phrases, embedded in the fundamental, are further defined:

*academic entrepreneurs and risk-takers*

Students who take ownership of their learning in an environment of high expectations are self-directed and intrinsically motivated. Entrepreneurs and risk-takers are critical thinkers who understand nuanced ideas and create meaning for themselves. Understanding that set-backs are stepping stones for future success is a lesson that learned early is also learned well.

*academic passions and interests*

We build upon curiosity, passion and knowledge as intrinsic drivers that motivate learning. Personal autonomy allows students to discover passions and interests and test their limits.

*beyond traditional classroom and classroom environment*

Experiential learning and the use of personal technology tools, used both in and out of the ‘schoolroom environment,’ provide students with *alternative-learning* environments, rich in context. Thin-walled classrooms, utilizing technology tools or mentors, encourage students to reach out to the teachers they need in addition to the teachers they’re assigned. Students develop an emerging sense of themselves as global citizens.