



Grading & Learning Committee

Committee Members: Brad Yates, Julie Meitzler, Tara Cocanower, Alyssa Moser, Stacy Herrold, Cindy Brooks, Megan Weldy, Erin Schantz, Steve Baker, Tammy Funk, Adam King

Goal: Develop district-wide polished, final belief statements

Summary of Activities:

The school district has undertaken an initiative to review and redefine grading and learning practices across all schools. In Fall 2022, a targeted effort was made to engage stakeholders in a survey aimed at gathering insights into existing grading and learning practices. This provided a foundation for understanding the diverse perspectives within the community.

Moving into Winter 2022, the district actively sought external expertise by consulting with educational researchers. Simultaneously, faculty members engaged in self-study efforts, contributing to an in-depth examination of current practices. This dual approach aimed to gather both theoretical insights and practical perspectives, fostering a holistic understanding of the issues at hand.

Spring 2023 marked a crucial phase in the process, with the district dedicating time to thoroughly review the survey results and facilitate discussions. This collective reflection helped identify key areas for improvement and set the stage for determining the next steps to be taken across all schools.

During the 2023-2024 academic year, the district formed a committee to develop draft belief statements that align with the core values, policies, and practices within BHMSD. The efforts of the committee signify a forward-thinking approach, while emphasizing the importance of integrating newfound insights and stakeholder perspectives into the foundational principles that guide grading and learning throughout the district. The collaborative efforts undertaken in this process underscore the district's commitment to fostering an educational environment that is responsive, inclusive, and reflective of the evolving needs of its community.

Current District Beliefs:

Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District - A learning community where a quality education empowers all students to learn and achieve to their full potential.

Current Guiding Principles:

- 1. We believe that all students can learn.*
- 2. We believe that all decisions should be made with the best interest of the students in mind.*
- 3. We believe that high standards of performance are expected of all students and staff.*
- 4. We believe that the family is the most important component in the education of a child and that the role of the school is to assist the family in the educational process.*
- 5. We believe that the involvement of parents and the community in the educational process is vital.*
- 6. We believe that educational programs and decisions should be based on the mores of the community.*
- 7. We believe that students should be instilled with patriotism and a respect for our country.*
- 8. We believe that students should possess good character and that good character includes the elements of respect, responsibility and integrity.*
- 9. We believe that each member of our staff should be a positive role model besides being competent in his/her area of responsibility.*
- 10. We believe that our teaching methods should be appropriate to the content being taught and to the learning style of our students.*
- 11. We believe that the results of data analysis must be used in the development of sound instructional decisions.*
- 12. We believe that our school should be operated with wise and efficient use of all financial resources.*
- 13. We believe that success creates success and that our school district should provide the conditions and encouragement necessary for each student to succeed.*

District Belief Statement (Board Approved 5-13-24):

Short Version:

Every moment matters.

Long Version:

Every Moment Matters at BHMSD

At BHMSD, we believe that "Every Moment Matters" in the educational journey of all students. This guiding principle serves as the foundation for our commitment to excellence and continuous improvement, encapsulating our key initiatives: Achievement, Integrity, and Service. Aligned with this belief, we set specific goals for student achievement, school environment, staff effectiveness, community partnership, and service to stakeholders.

1. **Student Achievement:** We recognize that every moment is an invaluable opportunity for academic growth. Our goal is to provide an environment that fosters student achievement by offering dynamic and inclusive learning experiences. Through personalized support, innovative teaching methods, and a commitment to academic excellence, we aim to empower every student to reach their fullest potential.
2. **School Environment:** Upholding the belief that "Every Moment Matters," we are dedicated to creating a school environment that is nurturing, safe, and conducive to learning. Our goal is to cultivate a culture that promotes positive relationships and respect for all. By fostering a supportive atmosphere, we strive to enhance the overall well-being and engagement of our students, ensuring that every moment spent within our schools contributes to each student's development.
3. **Staff Effectiveness:** We acknowledge the crucial role of our educators and staff in shaping the educational experience. With "Every Moment Matters" as our guide, we commit to enhancing staff effectiveness through professional development, collaboration, and recognition of their contributions. Our goal is to create an environment where every staff member feels empowered and motivated, ultimately positively impacting the quality of education provided to our students.
4. **Community Partnership:** Embracing the philosophy of "Every Moment Matters," we recognize the importance of community collaboration. Our goal is to strengthen partnerships with parents/guardians, community members, and local organizations. By fostering open communication and shared responsibility, we seek to create a supportive network that enriches the educational experience and contributes to the overall success of our students.
5. **Service to Stakeholders:** Grounded in the belief that "Every Moment Matters," we are committed to actively serving, engaging with, and responding to the needs of students, parents/guardians, and the broader community. We focus on building trust and meaningful connections with all stakeholders through proactive, transparent efforts in communication, responsiveness, and a commitment to service.

At BHMSD, "Every Moment Matters." We affirm our dedication to achieving excellence, upholding integrity, and serving the community. This principle guides us in creating an educational environment where every moment contributes to the development of well-rounded individuals.