



Upper St. Clair School District

Creating a Clear, Shared Focus:

Shared Beliefs

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Vision Statement

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Mission Statement

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District Goals

The Steering Committee of
The Upper St. Clair School District
2008 Strategic Plan

October 24, 2008

Upper St. Clair School District Shared Beliefs
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We believe that:

1. education is a shared responsibility and requires collaboration of the institution, the governing authority, the student, the family, and the community.
2. the involvement of the parents and community in the schools is critical to the education of students and sets an example for children to grow as responsible citizens.
3. a commitment to excellence demands an investment of financial, human, and material resources.
4. the quality of the school district impacts the quality of life in the community.
5. an exemplary educational institution aims to promote an environment of academic excellence and pride in the school community.
6. a school district that offers a variety of programmatic choices ensures greater student engagement in the learning process.
7. a school district, staff, students, parents, and community benefit from an attitude of continuous progress and consistent practices of exploration, forward-thinking, and openness to change.
8. a safe learning environment is a right and a responsibility for all stakeholders.
9. children are our community's most valuable asset, and each child has intrinsic worth.
10. education is most effective when decision-making is focused on the best interests of the student.
11. children achieve their maximum potential through hard work and dedication in an environment when expectations are high, when they understand the purpose for learning, and when they are engaged in the process.

12. exposure to a balanced curriculum, including academics, arts, and athletics, expands the human experience and allows each student to discover his or her own particular interests and abilities.
13. a wide variety of extra-curricular activities develops a sense of leadership and teamwork in students
14. effective education develops the whole person—ethically, intellectually, emotionally, socially, and physically—and promotes self-esteem and personal happiness.
15. interaction and collaboration with people of diverse backgrounds and character encourages tolerance, open-mindedness, and appreciation for others.
16. because students learn at different rates and in different ways, it is essential to recognize each student's needs and interests when creating opportunities for continuous progress.
17. effective education fosters students' abilities to listen and communicate, think critically and creatively, and apply their knowledge to all of their decision-making.
18. children do best when they are mentored through their failures as well as their successes.
19. service to others encourages students to develop an understanding of and appreciation for other people and encourages them to become contributing members of society.
20. lifelong learning, a process that begins with parents in the home and is cultivated by teachers and staff in the schools, is essential for success in a changing society.
21. thoughtful practices of a school and community can foster a sense of environmental stewardship in students.
22. citizens and leaders of tomorrow need to be able to function successfully in a global and technological society.
23. an educated and well-informed citizenry is essential for a democratic society to flourish.

Upper St. Clair School District
Vision Statement

Upper St. Clair School District prepares our students
to be successful contributors to an ever-changing global society
by providing a nurturing, engaging, and challenging learning environment.

Upper St. Clair School District
Mission Statement

Developing lifelong learners and responsible citizens for a global society
is the mission of the Upper St. Clair School District,
served by a responsive and innovative staff
who in partnership with the community
provides learning experiences that
nurture the uniqueness of each child
and promote happiness and success.

Upper St. Clair School District Goals of the Strategic Plan

- I. **Develop the fullest potential of the whole child** by providing a healthy, safe, engaging, supportive, and challenging environment that nurtures each child. Achieving this essential goal requires the infusion of necessary resources, the collaboration of our staff, and the engagement of our community.
- II. **Foster thinking and learning among our students** by providing a curriculum that sets high expectations appropriate to the child together with a broad variety of extra curricular opportunities. Our students will develop critical thinking skills, character, ethics, and respect for themselves and others in an environment where the instruction engages and motivates them to become self-directed learners. We will monitor and assess whether students are progressing and their needs are being met. The results of the monitoring and assessment will be used to improve students' thinking and learning.
- III. **Challenge students to contribute and succeed in an increasingly interconnected world** by preparing staff to integrate global knowledge so that students can discern and value cultural diversity; by equipping students with skills to think critically about world issues and to act collaboratively in finding creative solutions; and by providing students with international learning opportunities across the curriculum to stimulate and expand their global awareness and understanding.
- IV. **Develop student and staff competency in current technologies** through the selection and use of technologies based in sound theory or research which enable and enhance thinking, learning, or operational efficiency. We will work to assure that students also gain the skills and confidence to adapt to technologies that are continually changing and emerging. Our District will be visionary and vigilant in addressing the constant evolution of technology and the ways that these emerging technologies can augment thinking and learning and enhance the operation of our organization.