

Northwest Harris County Cooperative for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing **Communication Philosophy**

We believe in WORKING COLLABORATIVELY for each child.

It is the vision of the Northwest Harris County Cooperative for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NWHCC) to be an exemplary educational community. We aim to provide a comprehensive education for students by partnering with their families to encourage life-long learning and promote social and cultural awareness.

We believe in LANGUAGE & LITERACY ACQUISITION for each child.

The NWHCC uses a Total Communication approach to meet the individualized educational needs of students. The most critical of those needs is the development and acquisition of language. Total communication may include listening and spoken language, body language, sign language, fingerspelling, speech reading, gestures, visuals, assistive technology, real objects or any combination thereof. Equal value and respect is given to nurturing and developing all students' language and communication skills. Language and communication skills are addressed and encouraged through early intervention and collaboration with families.

We believe in ENGLISH PROFICIENCY for each child.

The NWHCC is committed to providing students who are deaf or hard of hearing with opportunities to develop proficiency in reading and writing English regardless of their communication mode.

We believe in SPECIALLY DESIGNED INSTRUCTION for each child.

The NWHCC provides individualized instruction based on the students' unique communication needs through ongoing assessment and IEP committee recommendations. We prepare students to reach their fullest potential and to become contributing members of our society.