

VISION 2030
A Strategic Framework for Blake

PRELUDE

Over the next five years, Blake will build on its legacy of academic excellence, exemplary arts and robust athletics. Blake remains steadfast in its belief that a vibrant learning environment springs from a diverse school community committed to pluralism and a common set of values. This Strategic Framework identifies areas where we will prioritize growth over the next five years within the context of our mission. It also anticipates evolution, recognizing that Blake must continually improve by incorporating new research and emerging disciplines into our educational model. This is how we remain relevant and prepare our students for the world they will inherit.

VISION 2030
A Strategic Framework for Blake

OUR FOUNDATION

Mission

Blake engages students with a dynamic, academically challenging education in a diverse and supportive community committed to pluralism and a common set of values. Students pursue an integrated program of academic, artistic and athletic activities, preparing for college, lifelong learning and purposeful lives as community and global citizens.

Commitment to Pluralism

A vibrant learning environment springs from a diverse school community. For this reason, Blake seeks and values students, families and employees with a wide range of backgrounds, identities and life experiences. Individually and collectively, we strive for understanding across differences in an inclusive environment where everyone can belong, contribute and thrive.

VISION 2030

In our interconnected and dynamic world, we must empower students to be ethical leaders ready for the challenges and opportunities of the future. We will educate for the future by focusing intensively on programmatic areas that equip learners with flexible ways of thinking, foster social-emotional growth, teach how to connect meaningfully across differences and develop leadership and agency in local and global affairs.

Values

Our shared values affirm and define us. They serve as guideposts for all we do and connect us—students, teachers, staff, parents and alumni—to each other and to Blake:

- **Curiosity**
  We seek out ideas, ask questions and strive to understand as a means to learn about others, develop ourselves and think meaningfully about our place in the world.
- **Kindness**
  We recognize the dignity and humanity in every person and show empathy to ourselves and others.
- **Inclusivity**
  We foster a sense of belonging by valuing each other for our similarities and differences, forging respectful relationships and helping others feel connected to the community.
- **Resilience**
  We persist through setbacks, learn from our mistakes and emerge from hardships with greater adaptability and strength.

OUR VISION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

With the 2023 unification of the Lower School and opening of the Early Learning Center, Blake is poised to look forward boldly and enact a future-focused vision for the entire PK-12 educational program. This Strategic Framework outlines the desired future state of our educational program and why it matters.

STRATEGIES TO REALIZE OUR VISION

Three key areas will focus our energy and resources that, in combination, will help us achieve our vision.





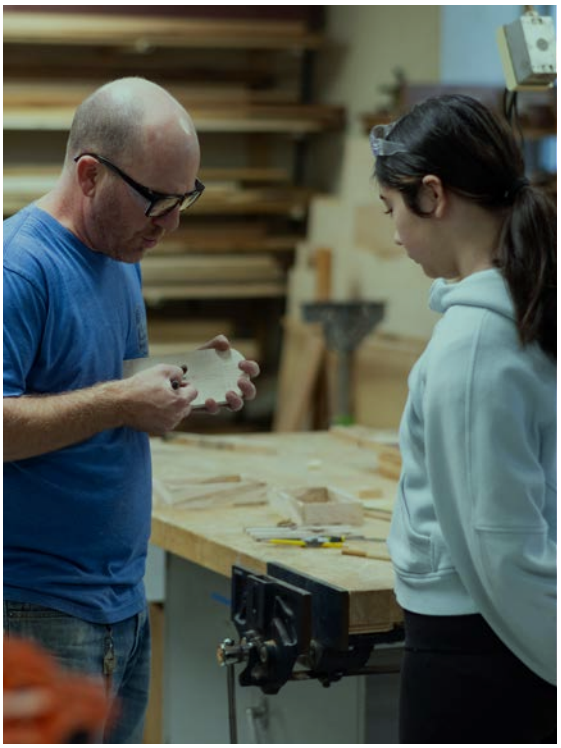

MIAMI

1 Advance Our Teaching and Learning

OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, BLAKE WILL ACCELERATE PROGRAMMATIC GROWTH, STRATEGIC INNOVATION AND CURRICULAR DEVELOPMENT IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- **Social emotional learning, positive identity development and mental health**

  Blake will center and intensify positive social and emotional development in its curricular and co-curricular programs. Building students' social and emotional skills appropriate to each developmental level, we will focus more intently on the whole person, equip students with tools critical to their wellbeing and mental health, support students' specific learning profiles, cultivate digital citizenship and amplify the power of connection and community across our three divisions.



- **Computational and design thinking**

  As we step into a future shaped by digital innovation, we are committed to enhancing our curricula with the principles of computational and design thinking. This approach, rooted in the analytical methods of computer science, enables students to break down complex issues, identify patterns and create structured solutions. By cultivating these skills, we aim to prepare our students to not just adapt to the evolving digital landscape but also play an active role in creatively and positively shaping it for the greater good.

- **Ecological literacy, climate science and environmental stewardship**

  In an age where we are facing unprecedented global and local environmental challenges, Blake will prioritize interdisciplinary teaching about the Earth's systems both locally and globally. Students will develop environmental systems thinking and a sense of personal and collective agency in relation to sustainability. They will learn how to apply climate science in their current lives and in their engagement as leaders beyond Blake.

- **School-wide system for curricular review, development and alignment**

  For well over a century, Blake has been committed to excellence. Recognizing that the definition of excellence changes, we will empower faculty to engage in collaborative and innovative learning design while also building a PK-12 cycle for regular curricular review, development and alignment across departments and divisions.




EARLY LEARNING CENTER



II Empower Our Learners, Leaders and Community

BLAKE WILL BOLSTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT AS LEARNERS, AS LEADERS AND AS A COMMUNITY.

Expand student learning opportunities in and beyond Blake.

- **Community building**

  Engage students with each other across the school and divisions, inside and outside of the classroom. Examples include student-led affinity spaces, collaborative community art projects and cross-divisional service learning activities.

- **Connections beyond Blake**

  Design curriculum-based service learning and community engagement activities that foster authentic and sustained student connections with people beyond our school community. Examples include generating and preserving oral histories, interviewing elders, drawing portraits and mentoring through Breakthrough Minneapolis at Blake.

- **Real-world experiences**

  Deepen partnerships with local organizations to broaden the contexts for learning and provide students greater access to real-world experiences. Examples include laboratory research at the University of Minnesota, a Minnesota legislature internship or participation in a community activist initiative.

Boost faculty and instructional support staff professional development resources and establish a Lower School teacher-preparation program.

- **Professional development**

  Expand professional learning opportunities and resources for our educators. Target topical areas such as: learning differences, ecoliteracy, civic engagement, the Reggio Emilia approach and anti-bias curriculum.

- **Graduate degree funding**

  Add to the endowed fund supporting Blake's graduate degree program. Create capacity to underwrite simultaneous participation by multiple educators pursuing degrees relevant to their current Blake roles.

- **Early-career teacher development**

  Establish an Assistant Teacher Program in the Lower School (to replace the current TA model) that fosters professional growth and early teacher development through mentoring and co-teaching opportunities.









III Anticipate Future Needs of Our Programs and Students

BLAKE WILL PLAN FOR FUTURE PROGRAMMATIC AND STUDENT NEEDS AND FINANCE THEM THROUGH A ROBUST CULTURE OF GIVING BY:

- **Building an environment for learning**
  Update our historic Northrop campus to meet the current and future needs of our program and students. Environmentally sustainable renovations will include enhancements to the performing arts space, improvements to the dining experience, a refresh of classrooms and green updates to infrastructure.

- **Amplifying educational access**
  Bolster financial assistance to make the Blake experience accessible to more students and create an environment where all students can participate equitably in school activities, programs and travel opportunities. Build a Family Support Program that helps students and families fully participate in the life of the school; staff will work with families on a range of issues, particularly those that affect student learning.

- **Fostering a culture of giving**
  Support educational excellence through a vibrant and inclusive culture of giving and volunteerism. Philanthropy entails generosity in all its many forms—and a robust giving program involves all stakeholders and community members. Every gift is an affirmation of the school's mission and an endorsement of Vision 2030.



STUDENT IMPACT OF VISION 2030

Blake students will use their education to have a positive impact on the broader community and world. As independent thinkers and community-minded, informed citizens, students will have the intellectual, social and emotional capacities to stand up for what they believe is right and lead with curiosity, kindness, inclusivity and resilience.

BLAKE

blakeschool.org