



Darien Public Schools

The Vision of the Graduate

In March of 2020, the Darien Public Schools assembled a coalition of stakeholders—students, parents, teachers, administrators, community leaders, and Board of Education members—with the purpose of defining a Vision of the Graduate, a statement of what it means to our community to prepare students from prekindergarten through high school graduation for a successful future. Two aspirations emerged from community input: That all students would have the confidence and capacity to be self-directed, independent adults who live purposeful, happy, fulfilling lives, and that they would become citizens who contribute collaboratively and innovatively to their local and global communities.

In an era of rapid change to education and to the workforce, the Darien Public Schools recognized the need to identify through this Vision the skills and dispositions required to raise compassionate, resilient problem-solvers and leaders: **Communication, Creativity, Curiosity, Empathy, Independence, and Integrity.**

The Darien Public Schools is committed to giving all of our students multiple opportunities to master these competencies and to acquire these dispositions, throughout their experiences in our schools and their engagement with our curriculum, from kindergarten through to graduation. As a result, we believe we will graduate individuals who have a strong academic foundation and are prepared to use the knowledge and skills they have acquired to cast and fulfill a purposeful vision for themselves, their community, and the world.

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We believe our graduates will be forever shaped by the learning environments we provide within our school district. From these environments, our graduates will take with them an understanding that the successful pursuit of meaningful ideas requires:

Communication	Creativity	Curiosity	Empathy	Independence	Integrity
<p>Effective collaboration will depend on your ability to listen with a discerning ear and express your ideas with clarity and passion. Communication is a two-way exchange. Listen before you speak. Hear what is behind the words. Craft your communication with purpose and choose your words carefully - they hold great power. Know that your actions also tell your story. Find your own voice and dare to use it to build your community and change your world.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Seek to understand and be understood</i></p>	<p>Pursuing new ideas will inspire you and others. Connect all that you have learned in order to generate novel thinking, design solutions, and innovate. Embrace the trial and error process. See mistakes as opportunities. Problems are solved by thinking about what can be rather than what has been. Seek and appreciate the beauty within each discipline. Believe in your vision and give form to your ideas.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Dream, imagine, and invent</i></p>	<p>Approaching the world with childlike amazement will lead you to new questions and inspire learning for life. Pursue knowledge as it provides the bedrock for thinking. Turn your mind to inquiry while pursuing your passions. Engage with others' thinking and question with persistence to deepen your understanding. Commit to fearless exploration of the unknown because it will open doors to new possibilities.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Wonder and ask why</i></p>	<p>Understanding other people's experiences will enable you to form meaningful relationships and empower you. Open your heart and mind to the ideas and feelings of others and, as a result, learn more about yourself. Radiate kindness. Act with compassion. Embrace diversity and stand up for others and for inclusion. Honor the humanity of each person and contribute to a community that provides all with a sense of belonging.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Grow in the light of human connection</i></p>	<p>The life you build for yourself will be founded on how much you trust and rely on your unique talents and thinking. Self-reliance frees you to become who you are meant to be. Persist when you encounter obstacles and know that you can seek guidance to help you grow. Set goals and work hard to reach them. Diligence has its own rewards. Confidently choose what's best for you, balancing life's demands.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Forge your own path</i></p>	<p>Those who earn the respect of others conduct themselves honestly and adhere to principles in the face of adversity and social pressures. Tell the truth no matter how difficult. Accepting responsibility earns trust and reveals strength of character. Advocate for justice. Lead by example. Know who you are and let your actions speak for you. Develop your moral compass and demonstrate the courage to honor it.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Do what is right, even when no one is watching</i></p>

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Learner Outcomes

The Darien Public Schools Vision of the Graduate Learner Outcomes reflect a scaffolding between acquiring a skill or competency through utilizing that attribute to make a positive impact. We recognize and value that this growth requires students to overcome obstacles, ask questions, collaborate with others, think critically, reflect on the development of their identities, and extend fundamental academic skills.

	Communication	Creativity	Curiosity	Empathy	Independence	Integrity
<i>Demonstrating Attribute Acquisition</i>	I communicate effectively by actively listening to and speaking with teachers and peers.	I find opportunities to formulate ideas across all disciplines and in diverse forms.	I demonstrate my scholarship through active questioning and research across disciplines.	I seek to understand the experiences of others, and treat others with dignity and respect.	I rely on my own skills, knowledge, and talents to set and achieve goals.	I demonstrate my character through my words, actions, and decisions.
<i>Overcoming Obstacles</i>	I engage in reflection and revision to achieve clarity of expression.	I take academic risks, without fear of making “mistakes” in front of peers.	I fearlessly reveal my passions and wonderings and persist towards my goals when I face failure.	I courageously seek to move beyond personal bias and social constructs and see individuals for who they are.	I respond resiliently to obstacles and setbacks, drawing inspiration from within.	I adhere confidently to my principles, even in the face of social pressures.
<i>Asking Questions</i>	I formulate questions to effectively gather and evaluate information for accuracy.	I identify opportunities and develop questions that require innovative solutions.	I respond to newly presented facts, developments, and ideas with follow up questions and by asking, “Why?”	I respond to new people, places, and situations with the question, “What more do I need to learn for a better understanding?”	I accurately self-assess by asking, “What am I doing well?” and “Where can I grow?”	I respectfully question and stand up to those who speak or act in ways that are unjust, unfair or unkind.
<i>Collaborating with Others</i>	I collaborate with peers to interpret meaning and present our shared learning.	I collaborate with peers in order to solve problems, improve outcomes and give form to my ideas.	I engage respectfully with individuals and groups whose thinking is different from my own.	I seek out alternative perspectives in order to challenge and improve my thinking, and to develop as an ally.	I identify and appropriately advocate for resources that support my academic, social, and emotional goals.	I lead by example and celebrate the contributions of others when working in groups.
<i>Thinking Critically</i>	I present my ideas clearly and confidently to audiences to inform and persuade.	I approach tasks with flexibility and adaptability.	I investigate the connections across disciplines to uncover what weaves them together for a deeper understanding.	I use perspective-taking, inquiry, and synthesis skills to better understand others.	I analyze my experiences and synthesize my learning to formulate my own ideas and questions.	I evaluate information, situations, and ideas to determine what is truthful.
<i>Developing Your Identity</i>	I reflect on my communication with others in order to develop a deeper understanding of myself.	I see the formation of my identity as a creative process.	I explore interests outside of my comfort zone to develop a more well-rounded self.	I reflect on what I learn about others to develop a deeper understanding of myself.	I am confident in my talents, skills, and thinking and understand that hard work brings reward.	I act in ways that demonstrate my character and reflect the strength of my convictions.
<i>Extending Fundamental Academic Skills</i>	I craft pieces of academic writing and presentations for varied audiences and purposes.	I apply knowledge to novel academic situations and contexts to generate new thinking and perspectives.	I approach new tasks and subjects with an enthusiastic spirit, resulting in better motivation and outcomes for academic learning.	I develop healthy, kind, and meaningful relationships within and outside my school community.	I create and manage my own schedule of tasks, activities, and events while prioritizing self-care.	I earn respect for my academic ideas by citing and showing respect for others’ work.
<i>Positively Influencing Our Community and World</i>	I use my speaking and listening skills to engage in meaningful dialogue about real-world topics.	I boldly imagine creative and innovative solutions to real-world problems.	My curiosity inspires thinking in others and engages them in solving problems in our community and world.	I compassionately advocate for an inclusive, equitable community and a just world.	I recognize my ability to bring about positive changes in our community and in our world.	I serve as a leader and role model in my community and advocate for social justice.