



Discovery

GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE: A Road Map for Our Future

The Great Neck Public Schools is excited to announce the launch of a community-wide initiative to develop a Portrait of a Graduate during the 2024-2025 school year. This initiative represents a transformative opportunity to unite students, parents, educators, alumni and local partners around a shared vision of student success.

By identifying the essential skills, mindsets and character traits that define a Great Neck graduate, we can help ensure that every student is well prepared to thrive in an ever-changing world. The district is partnering with Molloy University, which brings a wealth of expertise in educational development and community engagement, to guide us through this critical process.

The proposed framework in developing our district's Portrait will center on future-ready skills, to include the four C's of learning (critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity), as well as literacy skills, life skills and applied knowledge.



Four C's of Learning



Literacy Skills



Life Skills



Applied Knowledge

Why Portrait of a Graduate?

The Portrait of a Graduate model is a powerful tool adopted by many forward-thinking school districts across the country. It outlines the necessary skills – such as critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity – for students to succeed in today’s world. The New York State Education Department recently recognized this

model as part of the Blue Ribbon Commission Graduation Measures, which aims to reimagine graduation requirements in New York State. By adopting a Portrait of a Graduate, the Great Neck Public Schools joins a broader movement to reshape education around the skills that will define success in the future.

What Will It Look Like?

This collaborative journey will culminate in the creation of a living document – a Portrait of a Graduate – that will serve as a guiding framework for our district’s goals and strategies. It will inform teaching practices, professional development,

curriculum enhancements and strategic planning initiatives, ensuring that every aspect of a student’s educational experience is aligned with the qualities that reflect the collective values of our school community.

A Community-Driven Vision

To build this collective vision, community involvement is not just welcomed – it’s essential. To garner community input, the district has launched a Thought Exchange survey where participants can share their insights and expectations for what a Great Neck graduate should embody. This inclusive approach ensures that the final Portrait of a Graduate truly reflects the aspirations of

our unique school community. To participate in the Thought Exchange, please scan the QR code below. **The Thought Exchange will remain open until January 17, 2025.** Together, we can build a Portrait of a Graduate that reflects our community, celebrates our strengths and equips our students to excel. Join us on this journey and help shape the future of education in Great Neck!

When offering your input on the Thought Exchange, you’ll be asked about the skills, mindsets and traits that you believe students will need to achieve success after graduation.

SKILLS are defined as the lifelong set of skills and knowledge that help students succeed in life no matter what path they pursue and are the skills that employers consider critical for success in the workplace. Examples are problem solving, critical thinking, leadership, communication, collaboration, writing and literacy skills.

MINDSETS are the attitudes and sets of beliefs that impact everyday actions and decisions. Examples are positive and growth mindset.

TRAITS are personality characteristics that drive thoughts, feelings and actions. Examples are self-esteem, confidence, honesty and curiosity.

**SHARE
YOUR
THOUGHTS!**



IMPORTANT DATES

Portrait of a Graduate Community Session
Monday, February 3, 2025 at 7 p.m.
E.M. Baker Elementary School Auditorium

Portrait of a Graduate Project Goals



GOAL NO. 1

Identify the key skills, mindsets and traits the Great Neck community believes are critical for students' success in college, career and life.



GOAL NO. 2

Infuse these key skills, mindsets and traits into the district's educational mission to ensure each student has mastered them by the time they graduate.



GOAL NO. 3

Identify the common ground that unifies the Great Neck community and develop a collective vision of the Great Neck Portrait of a Graduate.



GOAL NO. 4

Complete the New York State Blue Ribbon Commission suggestion to create a Portrait of a New York State graduate for Blue Ribbon designation.

Planning Timeline

November 2024–February 2025

- Conduct initial Thought Exchange survey for community input.
- Review initial data and present findings to the public at the Community Session on Feb. 3.
- Develop follow-up Thought Exchange questions to quantify key findings from initial survey.



March 2025–June 2025

- Develop presentation of Thought Exchange results and key skills to adopt.
- Create a unique graphic design that visually represents the Portrait of a Graduate outcomes.
- Present findings to the Great Neck Community.



Phase One:

Community Outreach

Phase Two:

Data Analysis

Phase Three:

Research Results Report

Looking Ahead:

2026 and Beyond



February 2025–March 2025

- Distillation of all Thought Exchange data/synthetization of skills to adopt.
- Molloy University team will analyze data and develop key insights.



- Envision new opportunities in collaboration with teachers, administrators, staff and families.
- Revisit existing curriculum based on project findings.
- Create new learning opportunities for students aligned with educational approach.

For more information, including a video of the Portrait of a Graduate kickoff webinar from December 3, 2024, visit www.greatneck.k12.ny.us/portrait-of-a-graduate



GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Mission Statement > The Great Neck Public School District provides an innovative and collaborative educational environment that supports academic excellence and the social and emotional growth of all students so that they may become lifelong learners and compassionate, productive members of a diverse, global society.

FOLLOW US!



Great Neck Public Schools
#DiscoverGreatness

IMPORTANT NOTE!

Please note that public Board of Education meetings will now begin at 7:30 p.m. This new start time applies to meetings for the remainder of this school year that were previously scheduled to begin at 7:45 p.m. We look forward to your attendance and participation!



Save the Date

GNPS CAREER PATHWAYS: AN EVENING WITH DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 6 p.m.

William A. Shine-Great Neck South
High School Auditorium

The Great Neck Public Schools will host a special districtwide event to highlight the success of distinguished Great Neck alumni, provide insights into different career paths, and inspire our future graduates. The entire school community is invited to attend this celebratory and informative evening. Additional event details will be shared in the spring. Please plan to join us!