



URSULINE ACADEMY OF DALLAS

# *Pillars of Excellence in Teaching*

Grounded in our Catholic identity and the wisdom of St. Angela Merici, faculty of Ursuline Academy of Dallas seek to serve the whole student in her growth through excellence in teaching. Ursuline educators embrace their responsibility for creating a supportive, responsive learning environment and are highly qualified in their field of teaching. As such, we are invested in teaching as a vocation and an ever-evolving craft, pursue meaningful collaborations with colleagues and families, and cultivate relationships with our students. Ursuline educators are stewards of the Ursuline mission, understanding that our core values are rooted in the person of Jesus Christ.

## *Called to teach as a vocation*

Ursuline educators are passionate and are inherently called to teaching as a vocation. They support and steward the Ursuline mission of all-girls Catholic education and the students they are entrusted to form. An excellent Ursuline educator:

- is an agent of the Ursuline mission and its success and curates mission-aligned learning environments.
- cultivates a space where all backgrounds and faiths are welcomed and honored within our community while nurturing the Catholic identity of Ursuline.
- strives to be a loving and consistent presence in the lives of students and colleagues, even when doing so may be difficult.
- embraces and exhibits the spirit of *Serviam* through involvement beyond one's classroom teaching role and contractual duties.
- mindfully balances the different facets of life to be well-positioned to fully and professionally engage in the calling as an educator.

*"As for you, live and behave in such a way that [they] may see in you a model. And what you want them to do, do it yourselves first."*  
-St. Angela's Sixth Counsel

## *Cherish students as the center of our work*

At Ursuline, educators support students, teaching to the wholeness of the student and viewing each one as a child of God. Excellent Ursuline educators authentically enjoy establishing positive relationships with students and they:

- demonstrate a love and joy for teaching as a vocation to our students, ministering to them with kindness, compassion, and truth.
- embrace building trust, demonstrating care, and connecting with students outside of the classroom.
- recognize the various learning needs of students, celebrating the value these students bring to the community and helping them realize their learning potential.
- leverage the resources provided in the school program to support student learning and well-being.
- understand that formation of students at Ursuline involves work and time beyond the classroom, affecting schedules and teaching time to allow full engagement with Ursuline's mission and core values.

*"For the more you esteem them, the more you will love them; the more you love them, the more you will care for and watch over them."*  
-St. Angela's Prologue to the Counsels

## *Devoted to learning*

Ursuline educators are learners who model openness, humility, excitement, and curiosity to students, colleagues, and the broader community. They value their own growth as a teacher and do so by continually updating curriculum and instructional practices to meet the dynamic needs of their students. An excellent educator at Ursuline:

- contributes to the profession of teaching and collaborates in school-wide and extended learning communities.
- embraces and integrates current, research-based innovations and their applications in education.
- identifies and utilizes opportunities and trends in technology that enhance student learning and accessibility.
- engages in and applies reflective practices including feedback, coaching and mentoring, and goal-driven learning.
- recognizes and invites the expertise of colleagues and the perspectives of students and families.

*"Seek and desire all the ways and means necessary to persevere and make progress to the very end. For it is not enough to begin, if one does not also persevere."* - St. Angela's Rule Prologue