

How Southwestern's Blueprint Supports Student Success

Our Blueprint for Excellence focuses on four priority areas:

The Student Experience

- Expanding opportunities, wellness support, career exploration, and student engagement.

Community Connections

- Strengthening partnerships with families, businesses, and community organizations.

The Staff Experience

- Investing in professional learning and continuous improvement.

Safe and Welcoming Environments

- Creating spaces where all students feel supported and valued.

Together, these priorities help every student move from learner to graduate with confidence and purpose.

Southwestern Values

When students leave Southwestern, we want them to be known for:

Integrity

- Doing the right thing even when no one is watching.

Kindness

- Showing empathy, compassion, and respect.

Connections

- Building meaningful relationships and contributing to community.

Excellence

- Striving for personal growth and continuous improvement.



Portrait of a Learner & Portrait of a Graduate

Mission

Learning for All: Engaging and Preparing for Future Success

Southwestern's Definition of Learning:

Learning is an ongoing journey where students grow and build skills. Curious students work with caring teachers and staff who guide them through real-life, hands-on experiences. This helps students adapt to new challenges, succeed, and make a positive difference in their community.

Every Student. Every Pathway. Future Ready.



Integrity • Kindness • Connections • Excellence

What is a Portrait of a Learner?

The Portrait of a Learner serves as the foundation for every student's journey at Southwestern. Beginning in their earliest years and continuing through middle school, students develop the habits, skills, and mindsets that prepare them to thrive academically, contribute to their community, and ultimately embody our Portrait of a Graduate.

At Southwestern, learners grow to become:

Critical Thinkers

- They ask questions, explore ideas, and seek solutions to challenges.

Effective Communicators

- They listen, collaborate, and share their thinking with confidence and respect.

Reflective & Future Focused

- They learn social awareness to build & maintain relationships, and make responsible decisions promoting wellbeing for themselves and others.

Global Citizens

- They demonstrate integrity, kindness, empathy, and respect for others.

Academically Prepared

- They set goals, monitor progress, and take ownership of their learning.

Creative Innovators

- They use imagination and flexible thinking to solve problems and create new ideas, projects, or solutions.

These learner traits support our Blueprint for Excellence by strengthening student engagement, wellness, career awareness, and meaningful learning experiences.

What is a Portrait of a Graduate?

The Portrait of a Graduate reflects Southwestern's commitment to Learning for All: Engaging and Preparing for Future Success. It serves as a shared vision for what every Southwestern student should know, be able to do, and embody upon graduation. Through meaningful learning experiences, community connections, and multiple pathways to success, students develop the competencies necessary to achieve their goals and make a positive impact on the world around them.

By graduation, Southwestern students will be:

Critical Thinkers

- Analyze information, solve problems, and make informed decisions.

Effective Communicators

- Express ideas clearly across multiple settings and audiences.

Reflective & Future Focused

- They identify their strengths and areas for growth, set meaningful goals, build and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions that support the well-being of themselves and others.

Global Citizens

- Understand their role in local and global communities using civic knowledge to contribute positively to society.

Academically Prepared

- Demonstrate skills, experiences, and evidence for post-secondary success built upon a strong foundation in the NYS Learning Standards.

Creative Innovators

- Uses creativity and flexible thinking to solve problems and develop innovative ideas, projects, or solutions.

New York State is moving towards new graduation requirements. Grounded in research and shaped by input from New York State employers, educators, and workforce partners, these attributes identify the skills and knowledge most essential for success in college, careers, and civic life.

Connecting the Portrait to Graduation Pathways

Southwestern students will have multiple opportunities to discover pathways that align with their interests, skills, and goals.

College Pathways

- Advanced Placement
- College Connections
- Academic Honors Program

Service and Leadership Pathways

- Community Service
- Student Leadership
- Clubs and Activities
- Athletics

Career Pathways

- Career and Technical Education (CTE)
- Work-Based Learning
- Job Shadowing
- Internships
- Industry Experiences

Innovation and STEAM Pathways

- Science
- Technology
- Arts
- Mathematics Experiences

Current Graduation Pathways

IAAP (Individual Arts Assessment Pathway)

Allows students to demonstrate achievement through a rigorous sequence of arts learning and a performance-based assessment or portfolio showcasing their artistic skills and growth.

Seal of Biliteracy Recognizes students who have attained a high level of proficiency in English and at least one additional language, preparing them for success in a multilingual and global society.

CDOS (Career Development and Occupational Studies)

Provides students with opportunities to develop career-ready skills through career planning, workplace experiences, and demonstration of workforce readiness competencies.

Seal of Civic Readiness

Recognizes students who demonstrate civic knowledge, participation, and engagement through meaningful experiences that prepare them to be informed and active citizens.

CTE (Career and Technical Education)

Combines academic learning with hands-on technical training, allowing students to develop industry-specific skills and prepare for careers, college, apprenticeships, or workforce entry.

Through these opportunities, students build a portfolio of experiences demonstrating readiness for life after graduation. This aligns with New York's emerging focus on evidence of learning, real-world experiences, and multiple pathways to success.