Skills

Skills are abilities learned or developed through experience.

Critical Thinkers

Students who are critical thinkers engage in reflective and independent thinking. They identify the relevance, validity and importance of ideas using rational and intuitive processes. They understand the logical connections between ideas. They construct and evaluate arguments using criteria. They generate solutions and create new ways of thinking.

- *Why is it needed?* Our students will need to solve challenging and complex problems in an ever-changing world.
- *How will we develop it?* We will develop critical thinking in our students by encouraging them to evaluate current issues from multiple perspectives. Through our district's focus on highly-effective instructional practices, our students will engage in meaningful learning each and every day.

Effective Communicators

Students who are effective communicators are skilled at listening, speaking, questioning, and writing; they connect with people and know their audience.

- *Why is it needed?* The information explosion has increased the importance of communication. Effective communication is critical to meaningful social interaction, which is a requirement for success in learning, work and life.
- *How will we develop it?* We will develop effective communication in our students by engaging them in interactive, inquiry-based learning activities. Educators will provide students with opportunities to explain their learning to their classmates, using a variety of communications styles and media.

Academically Diverse

Students who are academically diverse have strong literacy and numeracy skills; they will also have acquired a full spectrum of skills through exposure to a wide range of subjects including the arts, sciences, financial literacy, physical education, the trades and technology, in keeping with student needs.

- *Why is it needed?* Our students will need academic diversity to connect ideas from different disciplines, and as a foundation to be successful in a wide variety of experiences throughout their lives.
- *How will we develop it?* We will develop academic diversity in our students by having a strong understanding of their profiles, offering them a wide array of programs, and providing cross-curricular learning opportunities.

Digitally Fluent

Students who are digitally fluent know how to engage with technology to enhance their learning; this includes interacting with, creating and sharing information (individually or collaboratively) in a responsible and ethical way to support their learning.

- *Why is it needed?* Our students will need a digital fluency that allows them to confidently adapt to new technologies to support their learning and participate in the educational setting most suited to their needs. Addressing these needs will allow our students to access, analyse, critique and communicate in a global, digital world.
- *How will we develop it?* We will develop digital fluency in our students through their interactions with technology across all courses and grade levels.

Ethical Decision-makers

Students who are ethical decision makers model principles that govern their decisions through their actions. They embody honesty, respect and responsibility.

- *Why is it needed?* Our students will need to be ethical to have a foundation for all their decision-making. It will shape their sense of community and citizenship, and the contribution they make to the world around them.
- *How will we develop it?* We will develop ethics in our students through their studies (i.e.: science, history, social studies and law) and discussions about multi-faceted issues and the principles of human rights and dignity.