

School Learning Plan

October 2021/22

THE CURRENT CONTEXT

Throughout the pandemic we have noticed that families and children have had to deal with ongoing stressful circumstances and anxiety. This anxiety has led to a noticeable decrease in thoughtful participation in group activities, as well as a deeper exploration of subject areas. This has put us on a journey to understand and evaluate how we help children and families develop a deeper understanding of the concepts they engage with.

OBJECTIVE: WHAT WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE

This year we wish to improve student engagement in thinking processes. We want to encourage individual risk taking and a deeper dive into the exploration of subject areas, focussing on processing thought and expression. In addition, people in our learning community are out of practice with communal/collective thinking, processing, and expressing. Our school goal is to increase student engagement in creative, critical, and reflective thinking processes, in both individual and group situations.

DESIGN: HOW WE PLAN TO MEET OUR OBJECTIVE

Action Plan

- Collect data from portfolios and conferences to understand current thinking strategies and skills
- Research/professional development and learning about thinking skills and strategies; possible areas include Bloom's taxonomy, metacognition, Core Competencies, Critical Thinking Consortium, logical fallacies, connections to the arts, and self assessment/reflection
- Staff collaboration around beliefs, philosophies and pedagogy to center how the program moves forward

Timeline

- Collect data from portfolios and conferences to understand current thinking strategies and skills: December, March, June
- Research and professional development: and learning about thinking skills and strategies: ongoing
- Staff collaboration around beliefs, philosophies and pedagogy to center how the program moves forward: ongoing

SUCCESS INDICATORS: HOW WE WILL KNOW THAT OUR ACTIONS ARE HAVING THE DESIRED IMPACT

Key Results

- Surveying/discussions with families to understand if strategies are understood and being applied in appropriate situations
- The amount of change (moving up Bloom's taxonomy, for example) in portfolios and group activities
- Anecdotal observations about students and their attitude towards thinking strategies
- Student reflections focusing on Thinking core competencies

COMMUNICATION: HOW WE WILL SHARE OUR LEARNING JOURNEY WITH OUR COMMUNITY

We will:

- have conversations and sharing during conference times
- discuss and collaborate during staff meetings/collaboration opportunities
- share with the PAC on a regular basis, so that they can further share with the parent community
- highlight our focus using online media (Twitter, website, Facebook, MS Teams)