

Education provides a venue for exploring our world. There is so much wonder and excitement that surrounds us! As educators we have the opportunity to take our students on adventures sparked by their own inquiry and curiosity. It is our responsibility to teach students to be lifelong learners by providing them with opportunities to uncover their passions, collaborate with others, engage in meaningful work, have real-world experiences, solve important problems, and share their learning with an authentic audience.

In order to engage in this type of learning we must build relationships with our students, their families, and our colleagues. I believe that building and nurturing relationships should be at the core of our practice. When we develop deep and meaningful relationships we feel excited to share our learning with others, we feel safe to take risks, we understand that learning can be a result of making mistakes, we find joy in sharing our thoughts and ideas, and we have fun together.

As a leader, I strive to cultivate a culture of learning that not only supports students to grow as learners but also supports staff to continue learning, to follow their passions, to be inspired, and to improve their own practice as educators. I believe that it is just as important for staff to engage in their own inquiry as it is for our students. When staff can bring their own passions into the classroom and explore areas of their practice that they want to improve with colleagues, they are modeling the type of learning that we want to see in classrooms with our students.

I also believe that as a leader it is my responsibility to develop a school culture where everyone feels like they belong and where they feel safe and respected to be able to make their voice heard as part of our learning community. When staff, students, and parents feel that their voice is important, it opens the door for healthy collaboration. A culture of collaboration is necessary for doing authentic and meaningful work. We might do good work alone, but we do great work together. I value working in an environment where people seek feedback and share ideas with colleagues.

As a leader I bring the following qualities to my work: I am joyful, curious, innovative, constructive and growth-oriented. I aim to be fully present so I can serve as a thought partner, be an empathetic listener, be supportive, and empower others to take action. Through these qualities I hope to build culture, inspire others, and transform practice. I believe in working together with students, families, and staff to build a school community in which everyone feels like an important contributor to our collective work. Some days that might mean that I can step back and let others take the lead, on other days that may mean that I have to have difficult conversations, but more often than not that means we all roll up our sleeves and jump into the work together.