

NORTH SALEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT LEARNING PRINCIPLES

What learning principles are and why they matter: Learning principles serve as a way to translate curriculum into meaningful learning that will meet the aspirations of our North Salem Mission Statement: *Engage students to continuously learn, question, define and solve problems through critical and creative thinking.* These curated learning principles are based on research of what constitutes best practice whether in person or remote. They continue to remind us of what needs to be at the forefront of our planning, instruction, and assessment design to motivate active and meaningful engagement in learning.

Criteria Used to Develop Learning Principles:

- Mission aligned
- Research-informed
- Applicable to remote and in-person learning
- Accessible and clear language

Learning Principles We Aspire to Grow in Our Classrooms:

- **Purpose:** When learners are clear on the purpose for learning, they take more control over when and how they develop their skills and dispositions to continuously improve their work.
- **Collaboration:** Learning is a social activity that benefits from thinking interdependently to make sense of an idea, approach, or set of actions.
- **Time for Learning:** Learning is not instantaneous: it takes time for learners to explore, tinker, revisit, and revise ideas to grow competency.
- **Feedback:** Learners require regular, timely, and user-friendly feedback with opportunities to use the feedback to reflect, re-do and improve.
- **Personally meaningful:** When learners see the value of and choices of how to approach a given challenge, they develop a growing motivation to do the work.
- **Appropriately Challenging:** Learning requires the right blend of challenge and comfort where learners know that success is attainable but must persist in order for it to happen.
- **Emotional Impact:** Emotional learning is intertwined with academic learning — the way a student feels throughout the learning process impacts their connection to the content and the likelihood of current and future success.
- **Making Thinking Visible:** Expressing and documenting thoughts using verbal, written, and visual language reveals to others and to oneself thinking at this time.