

DISTRICT MATHEMATICS PHILOSOPHY

Mathematics is a vigorous and growing discipline – a universal language useful for communication and research in other disciplines. We want our students to reason and communicate mathematically, to be mathematical problem-solvers, to value mathematics and to feel confident in their ability to use mathematics. Creating such a foundation necessitates a well-articulated and developmentally appropriate mathematics program for all, developing the mathematical power of each.

Mathematics is more than a collection of concepts and skills to be mastered. It is the exploration of ideas and concepts, the understanding of relationships, the ability to make predictions, to analyze data, to estimate results, to communicate ideas and to solve problems in this ever-changing world. It is no longer limited to the study of complex calculations and formulas. We are moving from a curriculum often dominated by memorization of isolated facts and procedures to one that emphasizes conceptual understandings, multiple representations, deliberate connections and mathematical problem solving. Rather than being a transmitter of knowledge, the teacher becomes a facilitator of learning, guiding, questioning, listening, clarifying and creating an environment in which the student is an active participant in learning.

The needs of today's society demand that all students become mathematically literate to function effectively. It will be necessary for our students to be able to use mathematics in their personal lives, further studies and future workplaces. As educators, we must recognize that students have differing abilities, performance levels, needs and interests and provide them with the best mathematics education possible so that they may achieve their personal ambitions and career goals.