

Portrait of a Learner:

In St. Louis Park Public Schools, our students are active, empowered participants in their education; their success is our success. Each student embodies brilliance and strives for academic excellence as courageous critical thinkers that have the knowledge and skills to succeed in our complex global society. They embrace their individuality and value the identities and perspectives of others; they collaborate with compassion and purpose, and lead with equity and integrity. The learning environment is rooted in equity, cultural competence, and racial consciousness, allowing them to be seen in their uniqueness and giving them the skills to be agile and adaptive in our changing world.

Our learners are curious, resilient, and open-minded; they are connected to each other, their community, and their world. They think critically and creatively. They engage deeply, and they are advocates for themselves and others. They are empowered to shape their education and future as they bring their passion to contribute meaningfully to a more just world.

Together, we nurture a district where each student is seen, valued, and inspired to live their brilliance.

Our learners:

- **Live their brilliance.** Students will reach their full academic potential and engage in the world confidently. They will be resilient, curious, and possess the drive to pursue their passions.
- **Think critically and creatively.** Lead with innovation, they gain the ability to analyze complex problems, generate creative solutions, and have the knowledge and opportunity to apply their learning to real-world contexts.
- **Are open-minded connectors and communicators.** They will bridge differences by listening with empathy. They will honor the unique identities of others, advocating for themselves and others.
- **Lead with equity and integrity.** They will demonstrate the courage and responsibility to advance equity, honor multiple perspectives, and stand up for what they believe is just.
- **Collaborate with compassion and purpose.** They will invest in their community with care and compassion and build inclusive relationships.
- **Adapt and Thrive.** Students will take risks and initiative to embrace change while navigating the world with resilience. They will be engaged, lifelong learners and leaders.

Portrait of St. Louis Park Public Schools

At St. Louis Park Public Schools, the portrait of a learner reflects our shared responsibility to uphold high expectations that promote student achievement to prepare each student to succeed in our global society. This portrait reinforces our commitment to provide an equitable education system where the unique identities of our students and staff are understood, valued, and supported through a commitment to building cultural competency and racial consciousness. Together, we will build a unified school district where every student is seen, valued, and inspired to reach their full potential.

We are student-centered:

We believe in our students' brilliance and potential. We will support their success by centering their voices and needs. We will engage with curiosity to seek understanding and listen deeply, honor their unique identities, set ambitious goals, use data to make informed decisions, and co-design inclusive learning environments to reinforce student agency. We will co-create opportunities where students are seen, heard, and empowered to shape their learning journey actively.

We are aligned:

We will build a cohesive, unified school district that prioritizes academic achievement and embeds equity systemwide. Our focus is to ensure all staff are equipped through professional development to implement culturally responsive practices aligned with our core values and strategic priorities.

We live our values:

The brilliance of ourselves and others.

- We will recognize, affirm, and celebrate the unique talents, identities, and strengths of our students, staff, and community.
- We will create learning environments and equip educators to challenge students to reach their full academic potential and nurture curiosity, confidence, and creativity.
- We will model a growth mindset by reflecting on personal learning and encouraging others to do the same.

- We will celebrate milestones and accomplishments—academic, personal, and professional.

Authentic community engagement.

- We will build trusting relationships with students, families, community members, partners, and staff.
- We will seek and include multiple perspectives in decision-making processes, ensuring that students, staff, and families are heard and have a voice.
- We will listen deeply and provide opportunities for engagement and feedback. We will model being open-minded connectors and communicators.
- We will communicate, strategically, transparently, and responsively with all families, staff, and the community.

We have high expectations.

- We will set ambitious, data-informed goals for student learning and professional practice.
- We will integrate dignity into all environments, address behaviors and performance challenges, and provide timely, constructive feedback to support continuous growth.
- We provide the skills and development to scaffold instruction and supports to help all learners access rigorous content. We will honor our MTSS system to ensure each student is treated with dignity and allowed to live their brilliance.
- We will continuously build self and cultural awareness, as well as the competencies needed to challenge deficit-based assumptions and believe in the potential of every student and colleague.

Collective responsibility.

- We will collaborate across teams, sites, departments, and roles to support student learning and well-being and contribute to building a cohesive, unified school district.
- We will nurture a culture of accountability and take ownership for outcomes beyond one's immediate classroom, school, department, or role.
- We will intervene when barriers to equity, access, or inclusion are observed. We will model leading with equity and integrity and be part of the solution.
- We will support one another through shared problem-solving and resource sharing.

Persistent effort.

- We will continuously assess and adapt instructional and operational practices to improve outcomes. We will work to become agile and open to change.
- We will use data to inform action and remain solution-focused when facing challenges.
- We will demonstrate resilience and a commitment to long-term transformational change.
- We will engage in improvement and learning cycles, even when progress is difficult.

Racial consciousness and cultural competence.

- We will reflect on how personal and systemic biases affect actions and decisions, and will build the skills and competencies needed to bridge across.
- We will actively work to build the skills and competencies needed to incorporate and honor students' cultural backgrounds, lived experiences, and identities into our instructional practices.
- We will engage in ongoing learning about racism, privilege, and cultural responsiveness.
- We will address racialized disparities in opportunities, experiences, and outcomes.

Advocacy for equity.

- We will integrate equity into our educational system, policies, and practices to prevent perpetuating inequities.
- We will use positional power and influence to remove structural barriers for students and staff.
- We will center all voices in planning, policy, and instruction.
- We will use data to monitor and address access, participation, and performance gaps.

Call to Action:

Together, we commit to supporting our learners as they grow into compassionate, curious, courageous leaders of tomorrow. We are one St. Louis Park.