

School Board Meeting:

October 9, 2023

Subject:

BHM Portrait of a Graduate

Presenter:

**Pam Miller, Director
Teaching & Learning**

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

No recommended action at this time. Action will be taken at the October 23 school board meeting.

DESCRIPTION:

The district [BHM Strategic Plan](#) developed in 2015 contains the following four goals:

- Goal 1: **Life Skills** – Purposefully integrate life skills to prepare our students to become contributing members of the community.
- Goal 2: **Whole Child** – Invest in the whole child to fully develop their social, emotional, mental and physical health.
- Goal 3: **Pathways** – Provide a variety of educational pathways for all students to succeed in a college or career setting.
- Goal 4: **Engagement** – We engage our community by fostering a positive relationship between key stakeholders and our schools.

To better define what these goals mean in practice for the work with students throughout the system, the *ccr 135* team (College & Career Readiness team, defining 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year goals) desired to create a culminating vision for the collective work of all educators - the BHM Portrait of a Graduate. Through the district partnership with AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination), the *ccr 135* team held several discussions about the skills needed by all students upon graduation, regardless of their selected path after graduating.

Ultimately, those skills were defined in the essential skills of **Student Agency**, **Rigorous Academic Preparedness**, and **Opportunity Knowledge**. The following outline of **Essential Skills** is the recommended language to be adopted as the **BHM Portrait of a Graduate**.

BHM Portrait of a Graduate • AVID Essential Skills

Student Agency: Students believe in themselves and act intentionally to build relationships, persist through obstacles, and activate their academic,

social, emotional, and professional knowledge and skills to reach their potential.

A. Building Relationships

1. Establish and maintain relational capacity with others.
2. Activate a physical and digital network of support for current and future success.

B. Persisting Through Obstacles

1. Monitor progress toward long-term goals and aspirations.
2. Seek help and feedback when necessary.
3. Develop a strong student voice to self-advocate.

C. Activating Knowledge and Skills

1. Create a strong sense of self-identity by connecting with one's emotions, thoughts, and values.
2. Develop and activate leadership traits and behaviors.
3. Think critically, behave safely, and participate responsibly in the digital world.

Rigorous Academic Preparedness: Students develop academic skills and can successfully complete rigorous college and career preparatory curriculum and experiences.

A. Writing

1. Communicate thoughts and ideas through the writing process.
2. Write as a tool to demonstrate learning and deepen understanding of content.

B. Inquiry

1. Use questioning to demonstrate critical thinking and clarify learning.
2. Conduct proficient, academic investigation through the research process.

C. Collaboration

1. Communicate clearly through effective speaking and active listening.
2. Work productively and effectively within groups in blended learning environments.

D. Organization

1. Manage materials using physical and digital organizational systems and routines.
2. Manage time to plan and prioritize appropriately.
3. Organize information and thinking.

E. Reading

1. Deepen understanding of a variety of texts by engaging in the critical reading process.

Opportunity Knowledge: Students research opportunities, set goals, make choices that support their long-term aspirations, and successfully navigate to the next level.

A. Advancing College Preparedness

1. Explore education and college path based on personal strengths, skills, and interests.

2. Explore college admission requirements, including financing, testing, and application.
3. Plan education and college path based on personal goals.

B. Building Career Preparedness

1. Build awareness of personal fit related to career readiness and selection.
2. Plan education and career path based on personal goals.

C. Developing Future Readiness

1. Develop personal financial literacy to make appropriate financial choices.
2. Develop a professional profile and monitor digital footprint.

Using the Portrait of a Graduate Essential Skills as a PK-12 springboard and common vision, supporting documents and resources further define the scaffolding and articulation across all grade levels and across all sites. The [BHM Essential Skills • PreK-12 Descriptors](#) identify the expectations for students at each level of the system, as well as demonstrating the commitment for educators in working with students. These descriptors by grade level may also be utilized with parents/guardians and other stakeholders as we partner with others to meet the needs of each student.

In order to achieve system accountability, measurement tools for each of the three areas of the essential skills have been identified. Data collection to identify a baseline will begin in 2023-2024. This will allow the district to identify strengths and areas of need once data is gathered. Creating specific district goals for each category of the Portrait of a Graduate will begin for the 2024-2025 school year.

This link provides an overview of the [BHM Portrait of a Graduate Essential Skills](#) within one document for district use with staff and stakeholders.

Upon adoption of the Portrait of a Graduate, administrators and the *ccr 135* team will develop a systemwide plan for communication and implementation.

Current *ccr 135* Team Members:

Dr. Scott Thielman, Superintendent
Pam Miller, Director of Teaching & Learning
Amy Ernst, Director of Special Services
Tessa Newby, Assistant Director of Special Services
Dr. Mat Nelson, Principal, Discovery Elementary School
Brad Koltes, Principal, Hanover Elementary School
Tony Steffes, Principal, Montrose Elementary School of Innovation
Carmen Tubbs, Principal, Northwinds Elementary School
Jeanna Miller, Principal, Parkside Elementary School
Andrée Iden, Principal, Tatanka Elementary STEM School
Matt Lubben, Principal, BCMS
Katie Gohl, Assistant Principal, BCMS
John Hayden, Assistant Principal, BCMS

Mark Mischke, Principal, BHS

Kris Thompson, Assistant Principal, BHS

Ed Cox, Assistant Principal, BHS

Stephanie Ward, Assistant Principal, BHS

Nancy Eiyneck, Educational Equity Coordinator

Jenina Rothstein, Instructional Support Specialist

Kaia Grant, Secondary Curriculum Coordinator

Rob Nosbush, Gifted Services Coordinator

Jason Karn, PPD Coordinator

Joelle Orthengren, PPD Coach

Stacy Rutten, PPD Coach

Scott Palmer, PPD Coach

Jenny Wykle, PPD Coach

Danielle Winkelman, Special Services Site Coordinator

Bre Landrus, Special Services Site Coordinator

Courtney Gusel, Special Services Site Coordinator

Jess Nickelsen, BHS AVID Coordinator

Megan Losey, BCMS AVID Coordinator

The BHM Portrait of a Graduate will be presented for approval at the October 23, 2023 board meeting.