

## **EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY**

**P0000**

The Board of Education is dedicated to establishing a system of education that will provide for the development of each student's knowledge, power of understanding and judgment, according to her/his abilities and needs, as preparation for the learning and life situations that confront her/him as a student and as a member of society.

Since the learning environment has a strong impact on a student's personal and social growth and on her/his ability to benefit from the school program, the Board of Education will strive to support a school atmosphere which nourishes intellectual development, self-realization, and social concern.

The Board encourages parents and teachers to offer their expertise in developing a school environment that is academically challenging, psychologically satisfying and socially fulfilling for students at all levels. The objectives of an educational program are best realized when mutual understanding, cooperation, and effective communications exist among the home, community and school.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The District's philosophy of education and goals statement are set forth in Board of Education Policy 0200 (Educational Philosophy) and P0210 (Philosophy and Goals Statement). The Mission Statement that follows was adopted by the Board of Education February 1997.

### *Mission Statement*

The Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Central School District creates an educational environment that ensures opportunities for learning, personal growth, and social responsibility.

## **PHILOSOPHY AND GOALS STATEMENT**

Preface: The philosophy and goals structure of a school system identifies the scope and purpose of the system. The primary purpose of this school system is to provide for the development of each student's knowledge, powers of understanding and judgment, according to her/his abilities and needs, as preparation for the learning and life situations that confront her/him as a student and as a member of society.

We realize that the learning environment has a strong impact on the student's personal and social growth and her/his ability to benefit from the school program. Therefore, an atmosphere which nourishes the student's growth in intellectual development, self realization, and social concern should permeate all of the school's activities.

We recognize that the school is only one of the agencies responsible for the educational growth and development of students. We also recognize that a statement of philosophy must have sufficient flexibility to be viewed as a living document subject to growth and modification.

The philosophy which follows results from a belief in the individuality of students and staff, the importance of their interpersonal relationships, and our understanding of the ways in which people learn.

Philosophy: The school recognizes the value and dignity of the individual, helping her/him to develop her/his unique abilities and build a positive self-concept. The school will take responsibility for the student's acquisition, according to her/his ability, of basic communication and quantitative skills, of fundamental skills for learning how to learn, of a positive attitude toward the learning process, and of the knowledge needed to meet her/his goals. The school will also help to prepare the student for the responsibilities related to earning a living, consumer competency, and adapting to change.

Each student will be provided with learning experiences that help her/him develop a sense of responsibility for her/his actions. The school will provide each student with opportunities to be increasingly involved in determining the direction of her/his life and in selecting appropriate educational experiences.

We believe the individual should understand her/his responsibility to society and her/his role as a contributing member. The school will assist each student in developing the interpersonal skills necessary for social competency and in developing her/his capacity for humaneness. The school will provide opportunities for the development of cultural and leisure time pursuits and make provisions for fostering optimum physical and mental health.

We recognize that this statement of philosophy to be implemented effectively must be amplified with goals, program objectives, learning activities, and evaluation procedures.

This statement of philosophy for the district was adopted by the Board of Education as a result of the June 1972 recommendations of the Philosophy and Goals Committee, a 23-member Board-established committee with student, staff, and community representation. The Superintendent of Schools will be responsible for the implementation of this Philosophy Statement through a hierarchy of expanded goals, broad-based program objectives, departmentalized program objectives, and course-level objectives.

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