

# SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT, BELIEFS AND VALUES

Section A: Foundations and Basic Commitments

File: AA-B

## Mission

The mission of the Newburyport Public Schools, the port where tradition and innovation converge, is to ensure each student achieves intellectual and personal excellence and is equipped for life experiences through a system distinguished by students, staff, and community who: - practice kindness and perseverance - celebrate each unique individual - value creativity; experiential, rigorous educational opportunities; scholarly pursuits; and life-long learning - provide the nurturing environments for emotional, social, and physical growth - understand and embrace their role as global citizens.

## Beliefs

We believe that

- Each person is worthy of respect
- A strong community celebrates individual uniqueness
- Each individual has inherent worth
- Opportunity stems from adversity; growth from mistakes
- Through reflection we gain understanding
- Compassion and empathy build community
- Everything can be done with kindness
- Individuals are responsible for their own actions
- Attitude has power
- We have an obligation to serve one another
- Trusting relationships require clear and open communication
- A community is responsible for its individuals
- Education is fundamental to an empowered, evolving society

## Clipper Values

### Respect

- Am I showing respect for myself?
- Am I showing respect for the rights and worth of others?
- Am I showing respect for school and community property?
- Am I showing respect for the environment?
- Am I showing respect for others' views?
- Am I respectful in my written and spoken communication to others?

### Kindness

- Am I showing kindness by treating others the way I want to be treated?
- Am I showing kindness by promoting the welfare of others?
- Am I showing kindness by being patient with others?
- Am I showing kindness by acting with empathy and compassion?

### Innovation

- Does my work stretch my understanding?
- Am I approaching problems in new and different ways?
- Are we advancing innovation in all areas?
- Do I foster and celebrate creativity in all of its different forms?
- Do I understand the purpose of innovative practice?
- Is the innovative practice rigorous as well as creative?

**Perseverance**

- Do I know how to approach a problem without a clear answer?
- Am I willing to take risks?
- Do I recognize what is holding me back?
- Do I set goals for myself?
- Am I able to use strategies to overcome challenges?
- Am I doing my personal best?

**Responsibility**

- Do I accept responsibility for my actions and my words?
- Do I accept responsibility for contributing to my class or group?
- Do I accept responsibility for my personal growth?
- Do I accept responsibility for making ethical choices?
- Do I accept responsibility for contributing to my local or global community?
- Do I take ownership of my responsibilities?

**Reflection**

- Do I think before I act?
- Do I give sufficient time for reflection before I take action?
- Am I willing and able to make change and act based on the feedback I receive?
- Do I value my own work and that of others?
- Do I have an understanding of my learning style, strengths and weaknesses?
- Do I define success in a variety of ways?

**Version Control**

Action	Date
First Reading	7/22/2016
Second Reading	9/6/2016
Adopted	9/6/2016