



A Statement of Operational Values

The Homer Central Community promotes “**Blue Pride.**”

Blue Pride is:

Passion for Learning

Respect for Others

Integrity

Devotion to Civility

Excellence of Instruction

The Mission

The Homer Central School District promotes excellence and PRIDE in education.

The Vision

The Homer Central School District shall be an institution that provides a challenging and rewarding educational opportunity for the children of its district to become productive citizens in tomorrow's world. Instruction will be conducted in a manner to foster PRIDE among students and faculty. The Homer Central School District will strive to incorporate modern technological advancements in instruction as well as administration of the district. The Homer Central School District will strive to make financial resources available to maintain and improve buildings and grounds, which showcases the community's pride. The Homer Central School District is committed to engage the public through communication to ensure that the needs of the community are being met.

Goals

Instruction

Technology

Facilities

Communication

To achieve its Vision and Mission, the Homer Central School District will...

Goal 1: Instruction

Provide a safe and supportive environment and quality learning opportunities that are designed to develop responsible citizens with abilities to effectively cope with change and, in particular, to solve problems individually and collaboratively by the use of creative, logical, compassionate, and ethical thinking.

Objectives:

Passion for Learning:

The District will provide learners with administrators, teachers, and staff who care about the learner, care about learning, and will model a passion for life-long learning.

The District, understanding that learning is an experience activated by and occurring within the learner, will seek to motivate the learner to seek newer knowledge, skills, and behaviors. Students will be encouraged to take on responsibility for their own learning in the classroom and in the various extracurricular opportunities.

Respect for Others:

District Personnel will consciously seek to provide an environment that fosters citizenship and insists upon respect for others and for their property.

District Personnel will consciously seek to provide an environment that fosters respect for the right of the individual to learn independently and in collaboration with others.

Integrity:

District Personnel will consciously seek to model, foster, and reinforce within the Learning Community the principles contained in "The Golden Rule."

Each school in the District will have a Character Education Committee charged with the age-appropriate integration of the "Word of the Month" (Cooperation, Responsibility, Respect, Caring, Self-Control, Honesty, Perseverance, Fairness, Courage, and Citizenship) into the curriculum.

Devotion to Civility:

The District will provide a safe environment for the Learning Community by not tolerating substance abuse, physical harassment, sexual harassment, relational aggression, and inappropriate attire by clearly communicating the behaviors that will not be tolerated and the punishments that will consistently be meted out to offenders.

The District will provide age-appropriate instruction to the Learner on all forms of bullying and how to effectively deal with the bully or anyone who poses a threat to one's personal safety.

Excellence of Instruction:

District Staff and the Learning Community will be guided by these ten principles of learning:

- 1) Learning is an experience activated by and occurring within the one who is motivated to learn.
- 2) Learning is the discovery of personal meaning and relevancy.
- 3) Learning is sometimes a painful process requiring the giving up of old, comfortable ways of believing, thinking, and acting.
- 4) Learning results from experience, i.e. people become independent when they have experienced independence, trusting when they have experienced trust, and responsible when they have experienced responsibility.
- 5) Learning is highly unique and individual, i.e. each learner develops his/her own way of learning and solving problems and, when exposed to the methods of others, can refine his/her own in order to be more effective.
- 6) Learning has its richest resource in the learner's self, i.e. the learner's background of experiences and understanding provides a wealthy resource for problem-solving and learning.
- 7) Learning is both an emotional and intellectual process, i.e. learning is maximized when learners can express that which reflects what they feel as well as what they think.
- 8) Learning is a cooperative and collaborative process, i.e. helping each other to learn should be a fun process of interactive interdependence.
- 9) Learning is an evolutionary process. The ability to be understanding, accepting, trusting, confronting, sharing, helping, and evaluating requires a developing, evolving process. It cannot be imposed.
- 10) Learning is greatly enhanced when programs are made available to meet the needs of the "whole child".

District personnel with the assistance of the Office of Instruction and Evaluation and the Professional Staff Development Committee, will seek out and use a variety of methods to meet the developmental needs of the learners and to instill in each learner the knowledge, skills, and behaviors needed to be the effective

parent, productive worker, and concerned citizen of tomorrow's ever-changing world.

District personnel will be provided and actively pursue training in designing, developing, and implementing developmentally appropriate programs that are part of a sequential K-12 curriculum that focuses on basic communication and mathematics skills, critical thinking, and problem solving and is congruent with the State's standards, No Child Left Behind, and the District's requirements for graduation.

District personnel will explore and assess programs and instructional strategies that address the many modes of students' learning.

District personnel will design and develop processes, procedures and opportunities for student self-assessment and self-evaluation of learning progress and utilize modes of assessment to determine levels of achievement and readiness to progress through the curriculum.

District personnel, aware that the quality of instruction depends on the quality of resources available, will rely upon the support outlined in the next three goals: technological support, facilities support, and parent/community support.

To achieve its Vision and Mission, the Homer Central School District will...

Goal 2: Technology

Provide the technological resources to support its global mission of child development and the enabling of Learners to have the knowledge, behaviors, and skills to become lifelong learners, effective parents, productive workers, and concerned citizens.

Objectives:

The District will provide the equipment, software, and training needed for the effective integration of technological resources into the curriculum.

The District will maintain an active district-wide technology committee to review and make recommendations annually to the Board of Education about the equipment, software, and training needs of Learners, Instructional Staff, Administration, and Support Staff.

To achieve its Vision and Mission, the Homer Central School District will...

Goal 3: Facilities

Provide an environment, through its buildings and grounds, which supports its global mission of child development and the enabling of Learners to have the knowledge, behaviors, and skills to become lifelong learners, effective parents, productive workers, and concerned citizens.

Objectives:

The District, through proper financial planning and adherence to the belief that capital improvements must be done on a routine basis, will strive to make financial resources available to maintain and improve the buildings and grounds, which showcases the community's pride in its schools.

The District will maintain an active district-wide facilities committee to review and make recommendations annually to the Board of Education about facility needs of the District.

To achieve its Vision and Mission, the Homer Central School District will...

Goal 4: Communication

Foster parental/community support of its global mission of child development and the enabling of Learners to have the knowledge, behaviors, and skills to become lifelong learners, effective parents, productive workers, and concerned citizens.

Objectives:

The District's Grant Writer will pursue and obtain alternative financial resources from a variety of agencies in the external community to assist in accomplishing the District's goals.

The Administration will serve as a liaison between the Instructional Staff and the external community and will seek out programs, consultants, mentors, and others with expertise to assist in accomplishing the District's goals.

The Administration will actively pursue and establish partnerships and collaborations between the schools and agencies, businesses, industries, professionals, and other educators in the external community to assist in accomplishing the District's goals.

The District will explore, analyze, and provide programs for parents that are designed to enable them to work with their children to enhance motivation to learn and to achieve.

The District will provide enhanced vehicles of communication and public relations with parents, businesses, and the greater external community.