

FOUNDING BELIEFS & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. We will fill the instructional day with quality learning.

- Teaching staff will know and fully understand benchmarks and state standards. This knowledge will guide instruction so that time, resources and technology are used to students' maximum advantage throughout the instructional day.
- Cascade Ridge will have a strong curriculum and supporting activities to challenge students to meet their potential, both academically and socially. Instructional time will be maximized and interruptions kept to a minimum.
- Staff and students will interact in positive ways, motivating each other to embrace new challenges in order to meet high standards and expectations.
- Classroom practices will support a variety of learning styles.
- Classroom practices will challenge students to use their learning, problem solving, and team strategies to develop creative solutions to difficult problems.

2. We will build and sustain an active partnership among staff, parents, students and the community to support learning.

- Team building within grade levels, across grades, and with parents and the community will be used to foster a safe, respectful and nurturing environment for all.
- Parent, business and community relationships (i.e., Site Council, PTSA), will be encouraged to help build strong educational programs inside and outside the school day.
- Families and the community will be informed about District and State standards that their children are expected to achieve, will be asked to participate in the recognition and celebration of student success, and will help provide support for those in need.
- The principal will be a visible, approachable leader who is an effective problem solver and who acts as a guardian of learning.

3. All of us – staff, students and parents - will be respectful in all verbal and nonverbal communications to foster collaboration, compassion, problem solving, and resolution.

- We will communicate openly and actively with all our constituencies.
- Courtesy, humor, flexibility and compassion will characterize how we interact with one another daily.
- We will listen well, be timely, maintain confidentiality, and respect various points of view in all our communications.
- Policies and procedures will be communicated clearly and directly.
- Communication about issues or concerns will take place among those directly involved only, with the intent to reach resolution.
- All building and district policies and procedures will provide the objective framework we follow for resolving issues, e.g., student placement, discipline, and personnel issues.

4. We will create and sustain an atmosphere of trust, high expectations and productivity in a safe and nurturing environment, where we are all accountable for our actions.

- Cascade Ridge embraces the idea of individual accountability, as described in ***Love and Logic***, to promote the development of students as responsible citizens. Parents will be asked to support the ***Love and Logic*** approach.
- We will continuously practice appreciating others' differences and strengths in order to encourage risk-taking and motivate learning.
- Rules, procedures and practices will be clearly and consistently enforced.