

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

The East Ramapo Central School District Board of Education is dedicated to educating students to develop desired moral, ethical, and cultural values, love of learning, and an understanding and appreciation of the rights and responsibilities of good citizenship, which will enable them to function effectively as independent individuals in a democratic society.

The Board believes the district's schools should help each individual develop to his fullest potential in the hope that he may contribute to society with dignity and self-respect. Toward this end, the school district should help each student acquire:

- knowledge;
- skills;
- a fuller sense of responsibility to himself and to others;
- a realistic approach to planning for educational and vocational goals;
- a keener understanding of the principals of sound physical and emotional health;
- an awareness and appreciation of a great range of aesthetic values.

The Board believes that every person is entitled to informed and sympathetic guidance as he works toward educational, vocational, personal and social goals. Such guidance is most effective when there is a cooperative spirit among school, home and community in which all:

- recognize a mutual responsibility for the welfare of each individual;
- accept the person's inherent capabilities and limitations; and
- affirm the individual's right to the major role in the selection of his goals.

The Board also believes that as each person's development is evaluated the assessment should reflect a respect for the individual's characteristics and a desire to guide, rather than judge, him. Consistent with this philosophy, in the area of knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes, the educational programs will aim to help each student to:

- appreciate our American heritage;
- practice democracy in everyday living;
- understand contemporary international tensions and problems;
- reflect insight into aesthetic aspects of man's cultures;
- realize the interdependence of man to his physical and biological environment;
- demonstrate a comprehension of the structure of mathematics, become functionally-literate; and
- exercise basic principles of mental and physical health.

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.

Date Adopted: 9/2/03