

MISSION

Balaclava is an inclusive and engaging community where creativity and commitment to equity are utilized to optimize learning for all.

VISION

We aspire to make the world a better place through informed, responsible, and compassionate action.

MOTTO

When we look after ourselves and we look after one another, we all succeed.

COMMITMENTS

To ensure an inclusive and accessible learning environment we will:

- Optimize materials and experiences to be responsive to varied learning styles, needs and interests
- Develop all programs (e.g., science, music, art, PE) equitably to ensure entry points for all
- Utilize available resources to maintain safety and well-being
- Greet one another by name

To nurture a sense of belonging in our community we will:

- Incorporate student voice and develop their autonomy
- Ensure meaningful feedback is prioritized over marks with a focus on growth
- Celebrate efforts as well as achievements
- Be receptive to differing ideas and opinions
- Create and use flexible learning environments

To grow in understanding and acceptance we will:

- Incorporate culture and identity into learning, not as events but ways to know and respect each other (Culturally Relevant and Responsive Pedagogy)
- Adopt an “everyone plays” recess protocol
- Use teacher and student selected grouping practices to expand thinking and relationships
- Be willing to make mistakes and learn from them
- Actively pursue anti-oppressive practices, naming and responding to prejudice when it happens

To create engaging learning that inspires we will:

- Embrace innovative thinking with optimism to solve complex real-world problems (“We can”, not “We can’t” mindset)
- Use a gradual release of responsibility to practice inquiry-based learning on topics/issues of interest to the learner
- Collaborate and challenge one another’s thinking
- Adopt a teacher as student/student as teacher mindset
- Continue to evolve through meaningful assessment practices that value the application of multiple intelligences to demonstrate learning

To ensure effective communication we will:

- Adhere to approved methods for communication (e.g., School messenger, telephone, email, MS Teams, The HUB)
- Follow Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
- Co-construct criteria for success in communication within different contexts (e.g., expectations when someone is speaking)
- Honour all voices
- Share long range school plans to support participation/planning (e.g., fundraising)