

The Purpose of School

With advances in science and technology over the last 20 years and their effect on society, the purpose of school has shifted. As we design Meadow Ridge, we keep the purpose of school at the heart of what we say and do. This requires a shift from what we have done in the past so we can meet the needs of 21st Century learners.

At our parent consultation session on June 2019 parents watched two videos. They were asked to think about the question “**What is the purpose of school?**” while they watched:



As a faculty, we used the words and ideas from this parent consultation evening to create statements about the purpose of school. Any bold text has been written exactly as stated on parent feedback.

One parent group summed up the purpose of school as:

“helping children grow intellectually and socially”

From parent responses, four purposes for school emerged:

- **Learning**
- Developing **competent citizens**
- Developing **socially** and **emotionally**
- Preparing for the **future** beyond life in school

Deep Learning

Meadow Ridge, at its heart, is about developing a **community of learners** who want to make our world a better place. Our purpose is to **preserve and cherish a love for learning** and a **love for inquiry**. The purpose of school is much more than getting a

good grade; it is about having the confidence to seek continuous improvement. We are about:

- **fostering a sense of wonder.**
- **designing, creating and wondering.**
- **introducing new ideas and possibilities.**
- **challenging children.**
- providing authentic learning opportunities to **apply their learning** both within and beyond the walls of the classroom.
- learning **fundamental skills** of **reading, writing, math, science** in order to develop **deep understanding**.
- managing information; **learning to use technology** responsibly and effectively.

Watch “How to Learn: From Mistakes” as an example of what this could look like:



Developing Competent Citizens

Meadow Ridge is a place that develops the **whole child ensuring their individual strengths are celebrated and unique qualities shared in order to foster great thinkers, doers and leaders**. To prepare the innovators, creators and problem solvers of tomorrow, students learn to:

- **Collaborate** and learn to be with and work among diverse people; they share ideas and knowledge while also learning from the ideas of others.
- **Think critically** and apply skills and knowledge to new situations; they are **flexible thinkers** and have **reasoning skills**.
- **Solve problems; ask questions.**
- **Innovate** - they are **not afraid to try and test new things**.
- Develop **creativity**.
- **Communicate and express themselves** effectively; they know their audience and adjust accordingly.

- Are **responsible citizens**; they have the **skills of a community to live and thrive together; learn to adapt to their surroundings; they develop their interests** to make a positive difference in the world.

Developing Socially & Emotionally

Meadow Ridge develops healthy, **confident** students who feel a sense of **acceptance, pride and ownership** through:

- Unwavering belief in all learners' potential
- Consistent **structures** and **routines**
- **Nurturing** and **caring for** all students; providing a culture **free from judgment**; using a strengths-based approach
- Expectations to **make mistakes and learn from them**
- **Resilience** and **perseverance**
- **Navigating social relationships** with peers, teachers and community members
- **Emotional regulation; connecting why we do things to the emotions they create**

Preparing for the Future

In partnership with parents, we **prepare students for adulthood; how to live**, how to manage **changes in work** and for **professions that don't yet exist**. We believe that if students develop a deep understanding of concepts; develop socially and emotionally, and develop competencies, they will be prepared to live a happy, healthy and successful life both within the beyond the walls of school.

Our goal is to empower their heads, hearts, and hands to make a difference in the world.