

Glassboro Shared Vision

Vision Title (Statement)

"Building Model Citizens"

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I. We see...

INTRO and CHARACTER INITIATIVE -

The Glassboro School District is an educational community marked by tradition, unity, and integrity, and operates as a family devoted to transformational learning. As one of the leaders in Pre-K through 12th Grade education, we see many wonderful things happening as part of an extraordinary vision to engage all the stakeholders in the district. We see character development becoming a central focus and element to all academic and extracurricular areas of each school. We also see true and honest commitment from all our students within the character initiative, as well as becoming a district that aligns its character education program with parents and the community.

Notwithstanding the fact that immediate change within a district is sometimes difficult and prolonged, we envision character courses being offered to demonstrate the positive character qualities that are necessary for healthy interactions among peers and families, including student and staff mentors who work in collaboration with each other to help build character traits and life skills aligning to our vision. We look forward to the many visual images and banners that promote our character, leadership and learning efforts all throughout the four schools of our district.

With a strong foundation of nurtured and developed character strengths, we see students walking away from their school prepared to take on life's challenges, and knowing they have the right tools to succeed. We see all four schools in the Glassboro School District receiving National Blue-Ribbon honors.

We anticipate students having a solid background knowledge in performing day-to-day responsibilities of self-drive, and accountability, as well as students who are responsible and self-disciplined, capable of working with others from any background in any and every environment.

TECHNOLOGY, FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS -

To help in our educational efforts, we see state-of-the-art classroom technology (laptops, smartboards, and headphones, etc.) including a LAN (Local Area Network) of the most up-to-date technology that ties together administration, staff, teachers, students, and families, similar to college/university systems. We look forward to the building of a Technology Center with the most advanced teaching equipment and computers. Virtual learning will become a staple of our education and communication efforts within the Glassboro School District. Our Digital community platform (which functions like college campuses as a one-stop shop) will be interactive and able to integrate all parent, staff, and student needs, with various services into one. We see newer and bigger facilities with the latest resources for our four schools in the district, as well as placing an emphasis on the safety and well-being of our staff and students. The addition of a state-of-the-art learning labs building, which is fully staffed with multiple adults in the classrooms, will aid in bringing our district to the forefront of Pre-K through 12th Grade education. All STEM classrooms will be larger and more spacious.

As part of the plan to having only the best resources for our students and staff, we see a library that is not only state-of-the-art in terms of technology but is also filled with books and printed resources of every kind. We also see differentiated instruction for all our students. In some of our most difficult and

challenging scenarios, we envision a Mental Health Support Center for all students, staff, and parents with appropriate counseling resources. New restorative justice policies and procedures will become commonplace. Hybrid Learning for students struggling with school anxieties will be an added and welcome offering.

COMMUNITY/FAMILY/PARENTS/LEADERSHIP -

We see more school/community collaboration, including “Family Learning Days” as part of a Community Learning Initiative – a place or method to help with family services, bridging gaps caused by socio-economic differences. We also envision community outreach resources that are well-established and defined to support struggling students and families, and provide assistance for those in need (food, clothing, or other necessary supports). Additionally, we hope to have a Community Wellness Center that supports healthy living, exercise, and nutrition.

As part of our expanding relationship with the community, we look forward to working with Rowan University and other outside organizations, whereby we can form partnerships and utilize and share resources. We imagine a district where high school students can earn college credits to enhance their education.

Knowing that parental involvement is critical to students’ success, we see a Parents Learning Center to help parents support their children in the appropriate use of technology and social media, as well as to navigate their children’s learning/academic needs, character development, and life-skills. We also see more parent resources for education and behaviors, as well as parental involvement in the school and community, including opportunities for parents to understand the evolving curriculum.

We foresee a District-wide Leadership and Professional Development Initiative that:

- Supports a growing faculty.
- Fosters the creation of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs).
- Encourages “teachers teaching teachers.”
- Promotes more open-format and Socratic-methods of education.
- Engages all stakeholders in active-listening skills and other communication techniques.
- Builds a world-class professional work environment.

STUDENTS -

Our most important resource and hope for the future is our children. Knowing the time it takes to learn, and the valuable life-giving tutelage our teachers give back to each individual, we envision opportunities for our students that go beyond the classroom and that help them succeed throughout their lives.

We see well-rounded students of character who value their education and work to build a strong school community. We hope and encourage our students to take charge of their learning. As we begin to see the fruition of our efforts, we envision students engaging other students in positive interactions in the classroom. They will begin to prioritize and manage their time and tasks well, especially in post-secondary school education. We will begin to see all students treating each other with total respect. As the “best of the best”, our students will model actively participating in school, sports, and clubs. Totally engaged in the learning process, we will see complete commitment, ethical character, hard work, innovation, and collaboration.

And to go to the next level, we anticipate some unique opportunities for our students. We look forward to a student mentoring program where students work with leaders to help guide and mentor one another in all areas of performance and high character decision-making. We see support and assistance for after-care programs at the end of the school day to aid in promoting students' life-skills, and eventual success "down the road." A big plus for our district will be our small group and individual time with students. Other student-led initiatives will include opportunities for leading, mentoring, and teaching. Additionally, we see secure outdoor areas for students to play, or for recess / sports, etc. We look forward to the Glassboro School District being a place where students learn concrete skills expected by employers in the modern business world, as well as adjusting to global demands. With all these additions and programs, we will know that we have given our best to help students be well-rounded individuals of character who value their education and work to build a better world.

II. We Believe and We Value –

We believe in impeccable and non-wavering integrity, the power of relationships and the unique gifts of each individual. And we value family and the fact that "students want to be here." As citizens of character with a strong moral compass, we develop other-centered citizens who are open-minded and prepared to "give back" to the world as a larger community. Working with students who value learning, we further inspire them to "reach for the stars" by being inquisitive, digitally competent, and stalwart critical thinkers. Placing an emphasis on all learners and all levels of learning, we believe in personalized instruction for all students, while at the same time, promoting the concept of a community of young men and women who are accepting of all individuals, cultures, and beliefs.

At Glassboro, we value our history and tradition rooted in the belief that we need to support individual talents. And knowing that our people are our most important resource, we value students' needs first and foremost, all staff inputs, needs, and wants, and the safety and security of everyone. We also believe in excellence and Glassboro's part in contributing to the global community around us. Our motto, "how one acts" is as important or more important than "what one achieves."

III. Our Unique Tools –

To realize our vision, we promote kindness, positive outlooks on life, learning, and failure, educational freedom, and healthy and wise choices in all decision-making endeavors for every student and staff. Through our combined efforts, we will build a better America and future together, as well as a safe place and our "second home."

We will always advocate for students, staff, families, and our community at large. And staying aware of the social-emotional needs of everyone in "our family", we will attempt to keep abreast of and help those with small problems before they become big ones. We will transform minds to be the brightest, most character-focused and other-centered that one can imagine. And we look forward to a district that is filled with love, compassion, empathy, and spirit.