

STEM VALUES

Defining STEM: "STEM is using all of your knowledge, resources & skills to solve problems." -Jeff Charbonneau, 2013 National Teacher of the Year

Empathy & Mindfulness



By enhancing our ability to understand others and respond in a positive way we can build truly meaningful relationships with each other and the world. Knowing that we are believed in, cared about and have a purpose in life maximizes our capacity for learning and creating. Observing and interacting with diverse people and experiences deeply and with an open mind helps us to "respond skillfully to the situation at hand."

Resources: <http://empathy.ashoka.org/why-empathy-0> , <https://mindfulnessinschools.org/mindfulness/>

Making & Chngemaking



We help children find where their head meets their heart and use what they are passionate about as a vehicle for deep learning. Capitalizing on their innate power to tinker, invent, & design allows for the child to "develop new solutions, mobilize others, and improve of society." By valuing the student voice and providing the space to think & create our students develop initiative, resourcefulness & industriousness. They become the architects of both their present and their future.

Resources: <http://www.techshop.ws/images/0071821139%20Maker%20Movement%20Manifesto%20Sample%20Chapter.pdf> , <https://www.youthventure.org/>

Design & Systems Thinking



Children see infinite challenges and opportunities all around us that are real and complex. They make connections, see patterns and change perspectives in order to gain new insights. Through discovery, interpretation, ideation, experimentation and evolution our children can both understand and transform the systems they are a part of. As flexible thinkers with the ability to see the big picture, structures, interdependencies and leverage points, students gain understanding beyond their own personal experiences.

Resources: <http://watersfoundation.org/>, <http://www.designthinkingforeducators.com/design-thinking/>

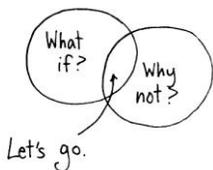
Radical Curiosity & Revolutionary Imagination



Yoda tells us, "Truly wonderful, the mind of a child is." Children are born with an insatiable curiosity and education seeks to facilitate the "sense of wonder, awe and inquisitiveness" inside of them. By feeding their voracious appetite for the anything and everything, we empower our kids to dream bigger and value those ideas and dreams. The revolutionary imagination that ensues helps us to create dynamic worlds unbounded by physical environment, the time of day, or life's circumstances. Make believe, create your own rules, improvise, and imagine the possibilities.

Resources: <http://www.edutopia.org/blog/why-curiosity-enhances-learning-marianne-stenger>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9owO04Uuf0>

Passionate about Play



Moving out of the way of the innate greatness of the child and allowing them to do the serious work of childhood means time for play of all kinds - indoors & outdoors, structured and unstructured. Children "have important work to do. Watch Ants. Grow Flowers. Dance Between the Raindrops. This is sacred work and childhood needs to be preserved..." Play allows us to develop executive functioning skills for a lifetime, gives us a chance to move and shake, and underlies our experiences with the power of fun. In play we find our ability to be resilient and to achieve goals we set for ourselves, both critical aspects of lifelong personal fulfillment.

Resources: https://www.ted.com/playlists/383/the_importance_of_play, <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=19212514>