



Board Agenda Item #	IV A: Information/Discussion Item
Date:	February 11, 2021
To:	Magnolia Public Schools - Board of Directors
From:	Alfredo Rubalcava, CEO & Superintendent
Staff Lead:	Ismael Soto, Director of Develop and Communications
RE:	Portrait of Graduate update

### **PROPOSED BOARD MOTION**

This is an information item; no action is required. A motion will be brought forward at the February 21 board retreat to move that the board approve the Magnolia Public Schools - Portrait of a Graduate.

### **BACKGROUND**

At Magnolia, our approach is an on-going education effort, where our schools, administration, teachers, parents, students, and community are all viewed as being one and the same. Magnolia's education program aims to create a nurturing community using a whole-child approach and has expanded on the successful community connections by building relationships with parents and the surrounding communities that address the mutual interests of all parties through the Magnolia Public Schools-Portrait of a Graduate project. The Portrait of a Graduate project was originally initiated in August 2019.

Our overarching objective at Magnolia Public Schools is to create a vibrant and mutually beneficial partnership between school and community that supports our students' academic and personal success. With the focused conversation about knowledge, skills, mindsets, and literacies essential for 21st-century student success, the Magnolia - Portrait Design Team has successfully crafted the meaning behind the Portrait. Through a design process that intentionally engaged our Magnolia community, the Portrait becomes our community's stated vision for Magnolia students.

Our GOAL with Portrait of a Graduate is a collective vision for Magnolia Public Schools that articulates our organization and community's aspirations for our students.

## INTRODUCTION

Bringing together a broad array of 17 Magnolia stakeholders to co-create a Portrait of a Graduate built understanding and lasting support from the community that leads to enduring impact for students.

The Portrait Design Team consisted of:

- District Leaders
- Member of the MPS Board of Directors
- MSA school leaders including two Principals and two Dean of Academics
- MSA Teachers
- MSA Alumni
- MPS Parent
- Community Member

## DESIGN PROCESS - PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE AT MAGNOLIA

The Portrait of a Graduate design process involves a sustained community conversation leading to a shared agreement about a unique community-owned picture of what graduates need for success. Every community and its school system is different, so every approach will be tailored to the local context.

**Phase 1: PLAN** - The Engagement Process

**Phase 2: ACTIVATE** - Our Design Team Of Community Members

**Phase 3: CREATE** - The Visual And Narrative Story For Our Portrait

- This phase of our engagement was critical to Magnolia's Portrait of a Graduate. With the focused conversation about knowledge, skills, mindsets, and literacies essential for 21st-century student success, the Magnolia - Portrait Design Team will craft the meaning behind the Portrait.
- Through a design process that intentionally engages our community, the Portrait becomes our community's stated vision for Magnolia students.
- Draft a prioritized set of competencies, including 21st-century skills, mindsets, and literacies.
- Portrait Design Team survey for feedback
- Design the POG visuals (sketch) that conveys a compelling story
- Collect feedback from the community about the societal conditions and share with the Portrait Design Team as they draft the Portrait.

**Phase 4: ADOPT** - Our portrait and plan for implementation

1. Submit the recommendation to the MPS Board of Directors for adoption
2. Publish and leverage the adopted Portrait as the North Star for subsequent strategic planning, and the design of educational experiences for students

## **PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE COMPETENCIES**

The following are SIX COMPETENCIES and descriptions that the Magnolia Portrait Design Team determined are important to include in our community's Portrait of a Graduate.

### **COMPETENCY #1 - LITERACY WITH A LEARNER'S MINDSET**

Literacy with a learner's mindset for Magnolia students is to demonstrate a depth of knowledge and literacy in multiple subject areas with a learner's mindset to make informed decisions. Students will overcome challenges by developing a positive attitude and belief about learning, embracing curiosity to experience new ideas, and sustaining the desire to learn, unlearn, and relearn.

### **COMPETENCY #2 - CRITICAL THINKING**

Students will utilize their critical thinking skills to problem solve by identifying, evaluating, and prioritizing solutions to difficult or complex situations, and implementing and reflecting critically on a solution.

### **COMPETENCY #3 - CREATIVITY**

Creativity for Magnolia students is to demonstrate originality, imagination, and new ways of thinking critically and independently. Students will transcend traditional ideas, rules, patterns, and relationships to create and convey new or meaningful ideas, methods, or interpretations.

### **COMPETENCY #4 - EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION**

Effective Communication for Magnolia students is to articulate thoughts and ideas effectively using oral, written, and non-verbal communication skills in a variety of forms and contexts, for a range of purposes and audiences. Students will also demonstrate empathy through awareness, sensitivity, concern, and respect for others' feelings, opinions, experiences, and culture.

### **COMPETENCY #5 - ADAPTABILITY**

Adaptability for Magnolia students is to demonstrate flexibility when acclimating to various roles and situations. Students will work effectively in a climate of ambiguity and changing priorities, demonstrating agility in thoughts and actions. They will understand, negotiate, and balance diverse views and beliefs to reach workable solutions, responding productively to feedback, praise, setbacks, and criticism.

## **COMPETENCY #6 - GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP**

Global Citizenship for Magnolia students is to contribute to making the world a better place. Students will understand the world and its complexities, value and embrace diverse cultures and unique perspectives through mutual respect and open dialog, cultivate compassion, and take action in building more peaceful and inclusive environments.

### **NEXT STEPS: Phase 4: Adopting the Portrait and Accelerating our Impact**

First, I will be following up with a survey to the MPS board to collect feedback. Once the Portrait of a Graduate competencies have been formally adopted and approved by the MPS board, the MPS Home Office will then turn our focus on implementation.

#### Turning Our Portrait Of A Graduate Into A Reality For Every Student At Magnolia

The serious implementation of our Portrait requires a thorough analysis of our Charter Management Organization (CMO) systems to identify the changes that will be required to take vision to scale including but not limited to:

- Strategic Planning:
  - Magnolia will use our newly developed portrait as the key driver of strategic planning.
  
- Systems Design:
  - Magnolia academic department, led by Chief Academic Officer - Erdinc Acar will lead the effort with school site leaders including Deans of Academics to align all aspects of Magnolia Public Schools to make the Portrait of a Graduate a reality for every student. More specifically, the efforts will focus on the MPS Schoolwide Learning Outcomes (SLOs) and Anchor Core Values of Excellence, Innovation, and Connection.
  - Schoolwide Learner Outcomes (SLOs): The SLOs are measurable schoolwide goals that every student is expected to achieve upon graduation from a Magnolia Public Schools. Our SLOs are embedded in our curriculum, including Life Skills, our instructional practice, core values, and daily culture at the school.

### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

- No budget implications

## **EXHIBITS (attachments):**

Attachments included:

1. Portrait of a Graduate 2021



## Portrait of a Graduate 2021

Project Lead: Ismael Soto-Director of Development and Communications

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Our overarching objective at Magnolia Public Schools is to create a vibrant and mutually beneficial partnership between school and community that supports our students' academic and personal success. With the focused conversation about knowledge, skills, mindsets, and literacies essential for 21st-century student success, the Magnolia - Portrait Design Team has successfully crafted the meaning behind the Portrait. Through a design process that intentionally engaged our Magnolia community, the Portrait becomes our community's stated vision for Magnolia students.

Our GOAL with Portrait of a Graduate is a collective vision for Magnolia Public Schools that articulates our organization and community's aspirations for our students.

### Portrait Design Team

Bringing together a broad array of 17 Magnolia stakeholders to co-create a Portrait of a Graduate built understanding and lasting support from the community that leads to enduring impact for students.

#### **Portrait Design Team**

District Leaders:

- Ismael Soto-Director of Development & Communications, Portrait of a Graduate Lead
- Alfredo Rubalcava-Chief Executive Officer & Superintendent

- David Yilmaz-Chief Accountability Officer
- Dr. Brenda Lopez -Director of Student Services
- Traci Waller-Lewin-Director of Math Programs

MPS Board of Directors:

- Sandra Covarubbias-Governing Board member and MSA-2 parent

School Leaders:

- Meagan Wittek - Principal at MSA-7
- David Garner - MSA-2 Principal and Reseda Neighborhood Council member
- Irene Gavrilov - Dean of Academics at MSA-2
- Lakybra White - Dean of Academics at MSA-3

Teachers:

- Jenna Cirillo-MSA-1 History and ASB Teacher
- Sheryl Rosenthal-MSA-Santa Ana

Alumni:

- Wendy Salinas-Parent and Community Engagement Coordinator at MSA-2

Parents:

- Adam Jacobs - MSA-7 Parent

Community Member:

- Dana Hanson - Senior Pastor at LIFE House Church and Preschool

## Design Process - Portrait of a Graduate at Magnolia

The Portrait of a Graduate design process involves a sustained community conversation leading to a shared agreement about a unique community-owned picture of what graduates need for success. Every community and its school system is different, so every approach will be tailored to the local context.

**Phase 1: PLAN** - The engagement process

1. Build understanding and ownership among your district's leadership and school board
2. Create a Portrait of a Graduate Design Team that will be involved across all phases to build a sense of urgency and create excitement across the community
3. Define our overall timeline

**Phase 2: ACTIVATE** - Our design team of community members

1. Convene the Portrait Design Team
2. Study the implications for your students in light of the changing economy, workplace, and society

**Phase 3: CREATE** - The visual and narrative story for our portrait

The next phase of our engagement (Phase 3) is where Magnolia's Portrait of a Graduate begins to take shape. With the focused conversation about knowledge, skills, mindsets, and literacies essential for 21st-century student success, the Magnolia - Portrait Design Team will craft the meaning behind the Portrait. Through a design process that intentionally engages our community, the Portrait becomes our community's stated vision for Magnolia students.

1. Draft a prioritized set of competencies, including 21st-century skills, mindsets, and literacies
2. Portrait Design Team survey for feedback
3. Design the Portrait visuals ("sketch") that conveys a compelling story
4. Reach consensus about a selected visual to share with the broader community
5. Continue to discuss this work in the broader community and elicit their ideas for the Portrait
6. Collect feedback from the community about the societal conditions and share with the Portrait Design Team as they draft the Portrait
7. Decide what revisions are necessary

**Phase 4: ADOPT** - Our portrait and plan for implementation

1. Submit the recommendation to the school board for adoption
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## Portrait of a Graduate Competencies

The following are SIX COMPETENCIES and descriptions that the Magnolia Portrait Design Team determined are important to include in our community's Portrait of a Graduate.

### SIX COMPETENCIES

- Literacy with a Learner's Mindset
- Critical Thinking
- Creativity
- Effective Communication
- Adaptability



- Global Citizenship

### **COMPETENCY #1 - LITERACY WITH A LEARNER'S MINDSET**

Literacy with a learner's mindset for Magnolia students is to demonstrate a depth of knowledge and literacy in multiple subject areas with a learner's mindset to make informed decisions. Students will overcome challenges by developing a positive attitude and belief about learning, embracing curiosity to experience new ideas, and sustaining the desire to learn, unlearn, and relearn.

### **COMPETENCY #2 - CRITICAL THINKING**

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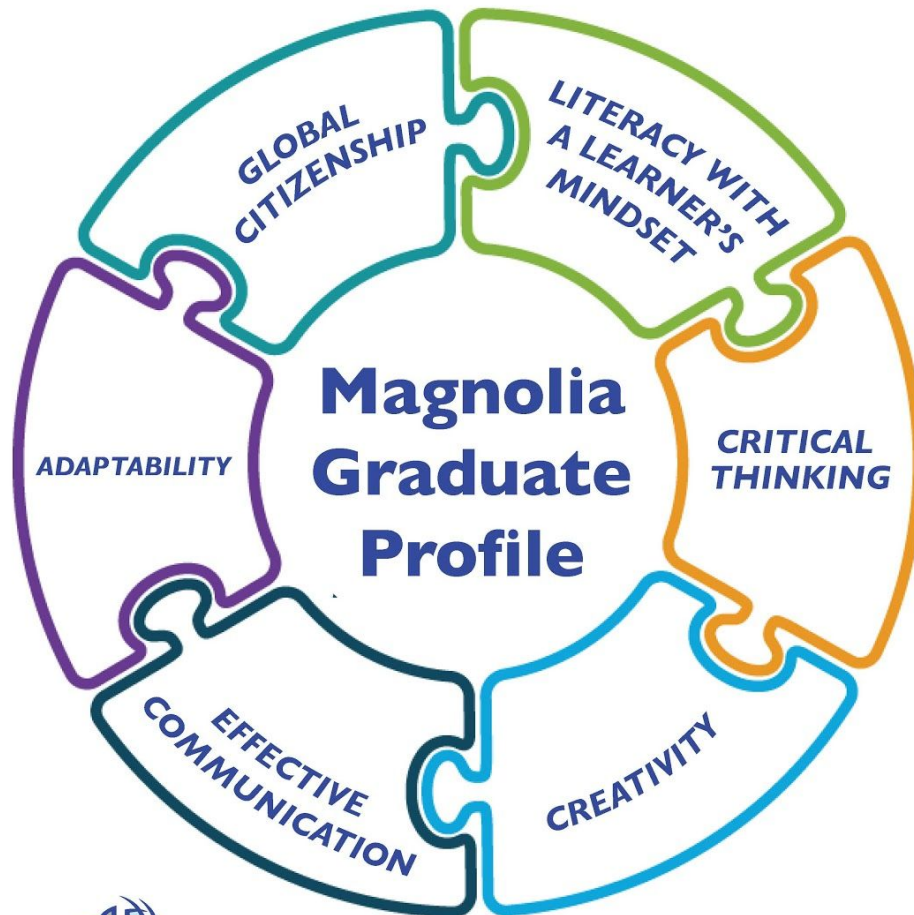
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## Portrait Sketch and Graduate Profile





# MAGNOLIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*Proudly serving California communities since 2002*

## Magnolia Graduate Profile

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# NEXT STEPS: Phase 4: Adopting the Portrait and Accelerating our Impact

## Turning Our Portrait Of A Graduate Into A Reality For Every Student At Magnolia

The serious implementation of our Portrait requires a thorough analysis of our Charter Management Organization (CMO) systems to identify the changes that will be required to take vision to scale including but not limited to:

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### Schoolwide Learner Outcomes (Example from Msa-1)

SCHOOLWIDE LEARNER OUTCOMES (SLOs)	
<p>EXCELLENCE:</p> <p>All students will pursue academic excellence and be college/career ready.</p>	<p>MSA-1 graduates will be SCHOLARS who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Think critically.</li> <li>▪ Develop academic plans and goals to guide in their pursuit towards a college degree and career choices (planning).</li> <li>▪ Apply, analyze, identify, synthesize and evaluate information and experiences.</li> <li>▪ Connect the skills and content learned across the curriculum and evaluate multiple points of view.</li> <li>▪ Use the Inquiry Process to address a problem, hypothesize, analyze, and draw conclusions as they investigate an issue/problem.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Utilize problem-solving techniques during conflict resolution and to compromise.</li> </ul>
<p><b>INNOVATION:</b></p> <p>All students will become independent, innovative scholars.</p>	<p>MSA-1 graduates will be INDEPENDENT SCHOLARS who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Exhibit the ability to integrate technology as an effective tool in their daily lives.</li> <li>▪ Use technology effectively to access, organize, research and present information.</li> <li>▪ Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills through the use of academic language at school, with peers and in the community.</li> <li>▪ Demonstrate content area and grade level achievement in Reading, Writing, Mathematics, History and Science.</li> <li>▪ Are self-directed.</li> <li>▪ Meaningfully engage in learning activities.</li> <li>▪ Make informed decisions on their learning pathways.</li> <li>▪ Know their readiness levels, interests, and backgrounds.</li> <li>▪ Understand their own learning styles and intelligence preferences.</li> <li>▪ Reflect on their learning.</li> <li>▪ Accept and integrate feedback.</li> <li>▪ Adapt to change.</li> </ul>
<p><b>CONNECTION:</b></p> <p>All students, families, staff, and other stakeholders will feel a sense of community and connectedness.</p>	<p>MSA-1 graduates will be COMMUNITY FOCUSED CITIZENS who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Embrace and respect cultural diversity through the understanding of our Global World.</li> <li>▪ Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of American and World History and the values of different cultures.</li> <li>▪ Contribute to the improvement of life in their school and local community through Leadership skills and participation in Community Projects.</li> <li>▪ Demonstrate knowledge of proper nutrition, exercise and physical health and its impact on daily life.</li> <li>▪ Collaborate, work effectively, and manage interpersonal relationships within diverse groups and settings.</li> <li>▪ Develop their ability to affect change in the world.</li> <li>▪ Understand and reflect on connections between their community and global connectedness and how it affects the broader world through global awareness.</li> <li>▪ Understand that outreach is a responsibility.</li> <li>▪ Realize that agitation is a mechanism to activism.</li> </ul>

## Anchor Core Values

MPS has identified Excellence, Innovation, and Connection as its core values, which are reinforced through the Life Skills curriculum, schoolwide learner outcomes (SLOs), and all school activities. The MPS home office academic team will lead the effort to rethink the following core values to better align with the newly developed Portrait of the Graduate competencies:

- Excellence:
  - Academic Excellence is the desire to pursue knowledge and excellence and to contribute original and provocative ideas in a learning environment, in diverse settings, and as a catalyst to future academic knowledge. We foster academic excellence through project-based learning using a constructivist approach, student portfolios, assessments of and for learning and academic discourse, and argumentative writing. Scholars learn where and how to access the needed information to advance their academic pursuits and societal contributions.
  
- Innovation:
  - Students will have the freedom to choose how and what they learn. Individualized scheduling, early identification of learning styles, personalities, interests, and career plans will support students' college and career readiness. This will include student participation in their four-year plans, after-school enrichment programs, STEAM program choice options, adaptive assessments, and blended learning strategies, differentiated instruction, and differentiated and adaptive assessments.
  
- Connection:
  - School communities are integrated partnerships with the school site staff, families, students, and all other stakeholders. This sense of connection creates a safe place for all learners and stakeholders to affirm individual strengths, celebrate character, provide academic support through mentorship and internship, promote unity and better decision making through the implementation of restorative justice practices. Additionally, community cultivates identity and gives each member a sense of belonging and pride. MPS utilizes home visits, student surveys, field trips, life skills classes, and coaching to support our overall community-based goals. We work with community partners to establish mentoring relationships and other social capital to support our students' development of personal and academic networks for long-term resilience and connection.