



Board Agenda Item #	IV C: Action Item
Date:	June 24, 2021
To:	Magnolia Public Schools - Board of Directors
From:	Alfredo Rubalcava, CEO & Superintendent
Staff Lead:	Ismael Soto, Director of Develop and Communications
RE:	Approval and adoption of the Magnolia Public Schools - Portrait of a Graduate

I. PROPOSED BOARD MOTION

I move that the board approve and adopt the new Magnolia Public Schools - Portrait of a Graduate as the north star for subsequent strategic planning, and the design of educational experiences for 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 now and into the future.

II. INTRODUCTION

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 now and into the future.

At Magnolia Public Schools (MPS), our approach is an ongoing education effort, where our board of directors, home office, school leadership, teachers, families, students, and community

are all viewed as one unified group. 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 families and the surrounding communities that address the mutual interests of all parties through the Magnolia Public Schools - Portrait of a Graduate project.

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 while addressing the needs of the communities we serve. With the focused conversation about knowledge, skills, mindsets, and literacies essential for 21st-century student success, the Magnolia Portrait of a Graduate 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.

Portrait of a Graduate Design Team

Bringing together a broad array of 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.

Project Lead:

- Ismael Soto - Director of Development & Communications

District Leaders:

- David Yilmaz - Chief Accountability Officer, Alfredo Rubalcava - Chief Executive Officer & Superintendent, Erdinc Acar - Chief Academic Officer, and Traci Waller - Lewin-Director of Math Programs

MPS Board of Directors:

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

MSA School Principals:

- Mustafa Sahin - MSA-1, Principal, David Garner - MSA-2, Principal, Musa Avsar - MSA-4, Principal, Meagan Wittek - MSA-7, Principal, Jason Hernandez - MSA-8, Principal, Steven Keskinturk - MSA-Santa Ana, Principal, and Gokhan Serce - MSA-San Diego, Principal

Teachers:

- Jacob Thies - MSA-6, PE Teacher and Justin Mitchell - MSA-8, History Teacher

12th Grade MSA Students:

- Alexia Ramirez - MSA-2, Harmeen Kaur Dhariwal - MSA-1, and Maisha Khanum - MSA-1

Alumni:

- Jennifer Hook - Assistant Executive Officer Manager, Wendy Salinas - Parent and Community Engagement Coordinator at MSA-2, and Thalia Velazquez - Communications and Charter Renewal Manager at MPS Home Office

Parents:

- Adam Jacobs - MSA-7, Parent

Community Member:

- Dana Hanson - LIFE House Church and Preschool (MSA-7 site location), Senior Pastor

III. BACKGROUND

The Portrait of a Graduate was created by Battelle for Kids. Battelle for Kids is a national non-profit which helps school systems across the country engage their communities in shaping the future direction of their schools—through the design of a Portrait of a Graduate.

The Portrait of a Graduate project was originally initiated in *August 2019* by David Yilmaz, Chief Accountability Officer at Magnolia Public Schools. The Portrait of a Graduate serves as a North Star for system transformation at Magnolia Public Schools. Providing strategic direction for the redesign of the overall educational experience for Magnolia students, this collective vision reinvigorates and re-engages students, teachers, families, and community stakeholders.

As education leaders, it is important to ask:

- What are the hopes, aspirations, and dreams that our community has for our young people?
- What are the skills and mindsets that our children need for success in this rapidly changing and complex world?
- What are the implications for the design of the learning experiences—and equitable access to those experiences—we provide in our school systems?

The Portrait of a Graduate for MPS is the first step in framing a new vision for your school system. Once we create our portrait, the exciting work of implementing this new vision begins.

IV. OVERVIEW

Design Process

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 our approach will be tailored specifically for Magnolia Public Schools.

- **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

- **Phase 4: ADOPT** - Our Portrait and Plan for Implementation

Portrait of a Graduate Competencies

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

SIX COMPETENCIES

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

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

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 Public Schools academic department, led by the Chief Academic Officer will lead the effort with school site leaders including Principals, Assistant Principals, and Deans to align all aspects of Magnolia Public Schools to make the newly developed

Portrait of a Graduate a reality for every student. More specifically, the efforts will focus on the MPS Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs).

- Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs): The SLOs are measurable schoolwide goals that every student is expected to achieve upon graduation from Magnolia Public Schools. Our SLOs are embedded in our curriculum, including Life Skills, our instructional practice, core values, and daily culture at the school.

Student Learning Outcomes 2021-2022

Literacy with a Learners' Mindset

1. Develop and implement literacy skills that impact all content areas so that they can be well-rounded individuals within society.
2. Meaningfully engage in learning activities by knowing their readiness levels, interests, backgrounds, and making informed decisions about their learning pathways.
3. Students take ownership of their learning by creating long and short-term academic goals and reflecting on them throughout the school year.

Critical Thinking

1. Apply, analyze, identify, synthesize and evaluate information and experiences and connect the skills and content learned across the curriculum.
2. Students are inspired to be lifelong readers and critical thinkers.
3. Be able to take a variety of sources and viewpoints, evaluate them critically, and make judgments that reflect an understanding of the possible consequences of those decisions.

Creativity

1. Apply innovative skills and practices which connect to their learning experiences.
2. Students have opportunities for multiple methods of the expression of ideas in a project (ex. writing, drawing, creating video, slide presentations, memes).
3. Incorporate new and meaningful ideas and methods through cross-curricular STEAM activities.

Effective Communication

1. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills, using the expected academic language for the purpose, audience, and setting.

2. Develop listening skills and exhibit empathy through awareness, sensitivity, concern, and respect for self and others' feelings, opinions, experiences, and cultures.
3. Use technology effectively and respectfully to access, organize, research, and present information to become proficient communicators.

Adaptability

1. Develop self-awareness and self-advocacy skills and maintain physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being to guide in their pursuit towards a college degree and career choices.
2. Collaborate, work effectively, and manage interpersonal relationships within diverse groups and settings. Respond productively to feedback, praise, setbacks, and criticism.
3. Demonstrates consideration of others' ideas by keeping an open mind, questioning ideas, and demonstrating flexible thinking.

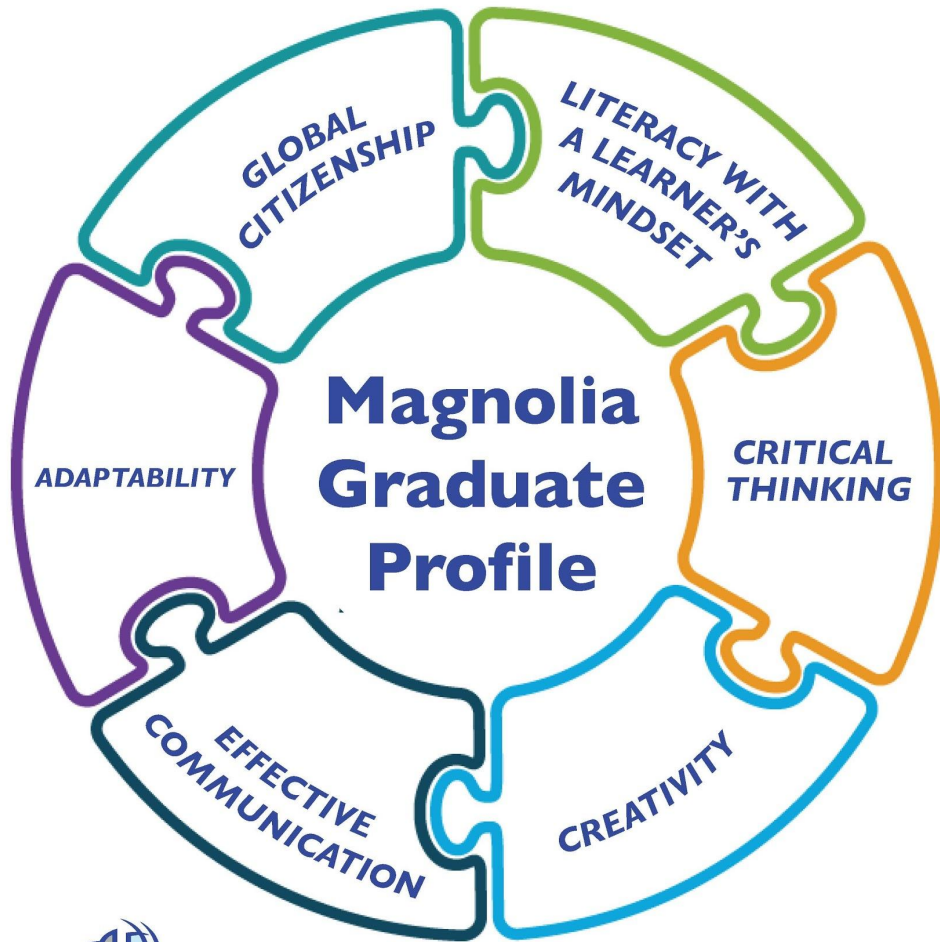
Global Citizenship

1. Contribute to the improvement of life in their school and local community by demonstrating leadership skills and participating in community-based projects.
2. Understand and reflect on connections between their local community and the broader world, through both current events and historical context.
3. Students are internationally-minded individuals who recognize and value other perspectives and cultures.

Anchor Core Values

MPS has identified ***Excellence, Innovation, and Connection*** as its core anchor values, which are reinforced through the Life Skills curriculum, Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs), and all school activities. The MPS home office academic department led the effort to ensure alignment of core values to better align with the newly developed Portrait of the Graduate competencies.

Portrait Sketch



Magnolia Graduate Profile

MAGNOLIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Proudly serving California communities since 2002

Magnolia Graduate Profile

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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..



Mission, Vision, and Goals

Defining our Strategic Direction

The strategic direction for Magnolia Public School encompasses the newly developed mission, vision, and goals.

- The Mission is about the **WHAT**
- Vision is about **WHY** people should feel motivated to perform at a high level
- The Goals is **WHAT WILL BE ACHIEVED** and by **WHEN**

MISSION: Below is the Magnolia Public Schools mission statement that was developed during the 2019 leadership convening at Magnolia Science Academy-8 that included members of the Magnolia home office, and school leaders including Principals, Assistant Principals, and Deans.

Magnolia Public Schools provides a safe and nurturing community using a whole-child approach to provide a high-quality, college preparatory STEAM educational experience in an environment that cultivates respect for self and others.

VISION: A vision statement is tethered to our MPS organizational values. We looked into the future of a world that doesn't exist yet and strived to create a vision that captures the spirit of the six Portrait of a Graduate competencies and the collective voice of the Portrait of a Graduate Design Team.

Graduates of Magnolia Public Schools commit to building a more peaceful and inclusive global society by transforming traditional ideas with *creative thinking, effective communication, and the rigor of science.*

Below is the rationale for key word choices in the vision statement:

- *Creative Thinking* encompasses:
 - Adaptability, artistic expression/creativity, growth and learner's mindset, out of the box thinking, and problem-solving

- *Effective Communication* encompasses:
 - Speaking, writing, social media, presentation, persuasion, defending material, pod-cast, and blogs
- *Rigor of Science* encompasses:
 - Study skills, how to select higher education, and preparation for college and career

GOALS: The *GOALS* is what will be achieved from 2021 through 2027. This proactive statement is open to all opportunities for students so they can be successful. It is directly tied to MPS academic professional development with teachers and strives to empower our students with choice and voice.

By 2027, more than 2,600 Magnolia Public Schools graduates will be productive, innovative, and responsible individuals who through the pursuit of their passions and educational opportunities will be poised to be change agents within their communities.

We will achieve this within five years by supporting the Magnolia Public Schools strategic and continuous improvement plans that are in alignment with our LCAP overarching goals:

- **Goal #1: BASIC SERVICES FOR A HIGH-QUALITY LEARNING ENVIRONMENT** - All students and staff will have access to a safe, secure, healthy, and high-quality learning and working environment. Students will receive high-quality services that are fundamental to academic success, including fully credentialed teachers, standards-aligned and high-quality instructional materials, and appropriately maintained school facilities.

- **Goal #2: EXCELLENCE** - All students will have equitable access to a high-quality core curricular and instructional program and make academic progress on the California Content Standards. Students will pursue academic excellence and be college and career-ready.
- **Goal #3: INNOVATION** - All students will have access to a well-rounded education that supports their readiness for college and the global world. Each student will become an independent, innovative scholar by practicing creativity in learning and using technology in transformative ways, and demonstrate high-quality learning outcomes.
- **Goal #4: CONNECTION** - All students, families, staff, and other stakeholders will have access to meaningful engagement opportunities that help cultivate leadership, advocacy, and collaboration in a safe and nurturing environment. Stakeholders will feel a sense of community and connectedness.

V. BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

No budget implications

VI. EXHIBITS (attachments):

Attachments included:

1. PORTRAIT_OF_A_GRADUATE_2021_FINAL.pdf



Portrait of a Graduate 2021

Magnolia Public Schools

Project Lead: Ismael Soto-Director of Development and Communications

Approval and Adoption by the MPS Board of Directors: June 2021

At Magnolia Public Schools (MPS), our approach is an ongoing education effort, where our board of directors, home office, school leadership, teachers, families, students, and community are all viewed as one unified group. 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 families and the surrounding communities that address the mutual interests of all parties through the Magnolia Public Schools - Portrait of a Graduate project.

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 while addressing the needs of the communities we serve. With the focused conversation about knowledge, skills, mindsets, and literacies essential for 21st-century student success, the Magnolia Portrait of a Graduate 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.

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Background

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As education leaders, it is important to ask:

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Design Process

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 our approach will be tailored specifically for Magnolia Public Schools.

Phase 1: PLAN - The Engagement Process

1. Build understanding and ownership among our 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 of a Graduate Design Team
2. Study the implications for our MPS students in light of the changing economy, workplace, and society

Phase 3: CREATE - The Visual and Narrative Story for our Portrait

This 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 Portrait of a Graduate Design Team will craft the meaning behind the Portrait. Through a design process that intentionally engages our stakeholders, the portrait becomes our community's stated vision for Magnolia students.

1. Draft a prioritized set of six competencies, including 21st-century skills, mindsets, and literacies
2. Surveys: Portrait of a Graduate Design Team surveys for feedback throughout
3. Design the MPS 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 of a Graduate 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 MPS school board 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 Portrait of a Graduate Design Team determined is important to include in our community's Portrait.

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

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

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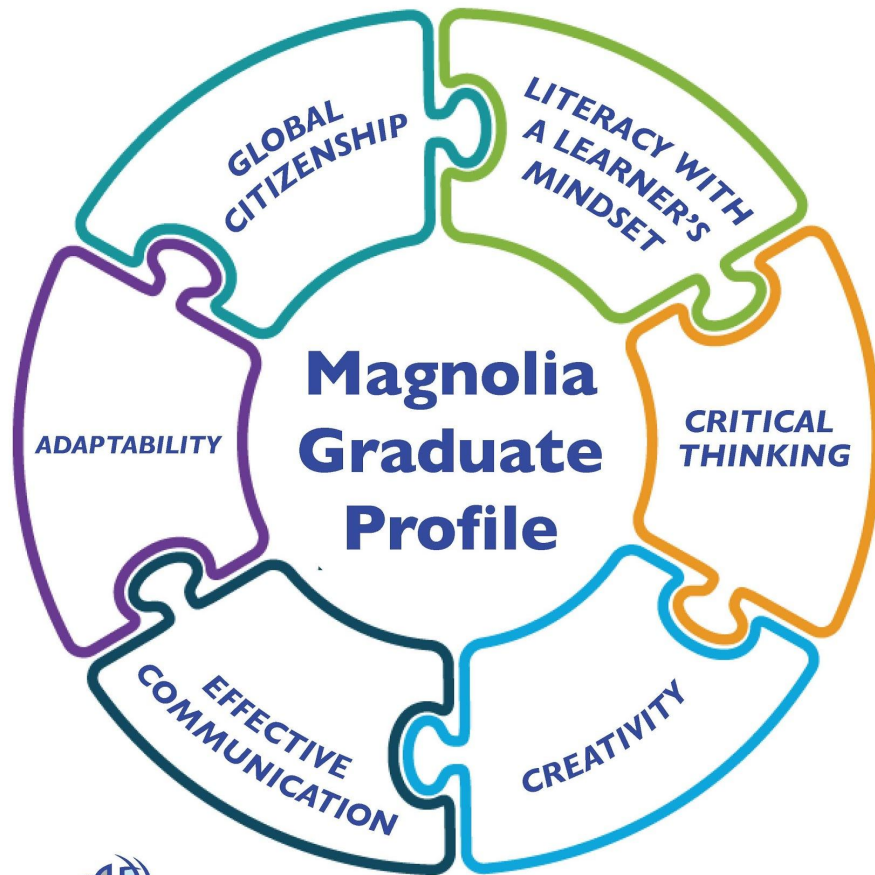
COMPETENCY #5 - ADAPTABILITY

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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.

Portrait Sketch and Graduate Profile





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Magnolia Graduate Profile

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Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

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:

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Systems Design:

- Magnolia Public Schools academic department, led by the Chief Academic Officer will lead the effort with school site leaders including Principals, Assistant Principals, and Deans to align all aspects of Magnolia Public Schools to make the newly developed Portrait of a Graduate a reality for every student. More specifically, the efforts will focus on the MPS Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs).
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Global Citizenship

1. Contribute to the improvement of life in their school and local community by demonstrating leadership skills and participating in community-based projects.
2. Understand and reflect on connections between their local community and the broader world, through both current events and historical context.
3. Students are internationally-minded individuals who recognize and value other perspectives and cultures.

Anchor Core Values

MPS has identified *Excellence, Innovation, and Connection* as its core anchor values, which are reinforced through the Life Skills curriculum, Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs), and all school activities. The MPS home office academic department will lead the effort to ensure alignment of 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. Students demonstrate their mastery and excellence in their learning outcomes based on MPS core competencies.

Innovation

Students will have the freedom to choose how and what they learn and demonstrate it as a public display of excellence. Individualized scheduling, early identification of learning styles, personalities, interests, and career plans will support students' matriculation and college and career readiness. This will include student participation in the planning of their educational experience, enrichment and acceleration programs, STEAM program choice options, individualized and blended learning programs, differentiated educational experience, 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, stakeholder 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.

Mission, Vision, and Goals

Defining our Strategic Direction

The strategic direction for Magnolia Public School encompasses the newly developed mission, vision, and goals.

- The Mission is about the **WHAT**
- Vision is about **WHY** people should feel motivated to perform at a high level
- The Goals is **WHAT WILL BE ACHIEVED** and by **WHEN**

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VISION: A vision statement is tethered to our MPS organizational values. We looked into the future of a world that doesn't exist yet and strived to create a vision that captures the spirit of the six Portrait of a Graduate competencies and the collective voice of the Portrait of a Graduate Design Team.

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- **Goal #2: EXCELLENCE** - All students will have equitable access to a high-quality core curricular and instructional program and make academic progress on the California Content Standards. Students will pursue academic excellence and be college and career-ready.
- **Goal #3: INNOVATION** - All students will have access to a well-rounded education that supports their readiness for college and the global world. Each student will become an independent, innovative scholar by practicing creativity in learning and using technology in transformative ways, and demonstrate high-quality learning outcomes.
- **Goal #4: CONNECTION** - All students, families, staff, and other stakeholders will have access to meaningful engagement opportunities that help cultivate leadership, advocacy, and collaboration in a safe and nurturing environment. Stakeholders will feel a sense of community and connectedness.