

The Exploris™ School

Empowering Learners to Improve Our World



MISSION

The Exploris School is a diverse learning community that engages students in a challenging, relevant, relationship-based education. Through experiential, project-based learning we empower students to foster a just and sustainable world.

VISION

Empowering learners to improve our world.

CORE VALUES

Exploris has been serving students in the downtown Raleigh community for over 20 years and is committed to growing our school in size and diversity to expand support and opportunity for all students. Our educational program is built around four core pillars: Global Education, Project Based Learning, Co-Teaching, and Responsive Classroom. The articulation of our core values ground the school in our educational approach and community partnerships.

Core Values



INNOVATION

In a constantly changing world, the ability to approach challenges in a new way is vital. Exploris teachers and students approach the learning process through divergent thinking, creativity, ideation, and risk-taking.

SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT

Students learn best when they are exposed to meaningful, complex issues that are applicable to their own lives. Teachers engage students in current, relevant issues by solving authentic problems that are being addressed beyond the four walls of the school building. Students realize that they have the power to change how their world works. They know how to navigate public systems, lobby public officials, and present their research and opinions as responsible citizens. Student work is tangibly connected not only to the local community, but to other regions of the world and to past and future events.

CRAFTSMANSHIP

Producing an exemplary product is challenging. It takes attention to detail, grit, perseverance, revision, and tenacity. It takes a growth mindset and a dedication to competing with one's own personal best.

CONNECTIONS TO NATURE

When students witness the power and elements of the natural world through adventure and stewardship, they begin to view themselves as just one species within a larger system.

RELATIONSHIPS

A nurturing school environment is one where students are encouraged to build and maintain positive relationships and collaborate with their teachers, parents, peers, and community. With a keen understanding of the unique development of the age group which they teach, teachers are intentional about the structures and relationship-building activities that they design. Positive relationships and collaboration results in a tapestry of learners who know they can depend on each other and work together in almost any situation. The end-product is deeper, and Exploris students experience a collective sense of accomplishment and ownership.

REFLECTION

In an ever changing world of new ideas, the importance of reflecting on one's own thinking and the thinking of others cannot be underestimated. Exploris values the creation of time to slow down, to reflect, and to build connections.

RESPONSIBILITY

Students take ownership of their learning and accountability for their actions and behavior. Students recognize the importance of character, integrity, and honesty.

CURIOSITY

True knowledge does not occur without curiosity. Students are empowered to ask questions about the world around them and to explore possible answers.

Strategic Goals

STRATEGIC GOAL 1: FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Increase the number of partnerships with community organizations and parents to support students' academic, social, and emotional needs.

Objective 1.1: Explore grant and research opportunities to support school vision.

Objective 1.2: Partner with local universities to increase education offerings and recruitment of new staff.

Objective 1.3: Partner with community organizations to provide resources for family engagement and wraparound support.

Objective 1.4: Support the development of an innovation center to transform education with other leading educators.

STRATEGIC GOAL 2: FACILITIES

Transition successfully to a new K-8 facility that aligns with our core values and expansion needs.

Objective 2.1: Begin construction in spring 2019.

Objective 2.2: Complete and occupy new building by fall 2021.

Objective 2.3: Develop alternate plan if construction does not begin by September 2019.

Objective 2.4: Develop interior design that meets the changing learning needs of all students and staff.

Objective 2.5: Ensure technology and infrastructure support instructional strategies.

STRATEGIC GOAL 3: FACULTY AND STAFF

Attract and retain innovative and collaborative educators who are involved in shared decision making about issues that impact the success of Exploris and its students.

Objective 3.1: Pay salaries competitive with other schools in the Triangle.

Objective 3.2: Provide teachers with opportunities to develop cultural competencies and remain innovative in education and professional learning.

Objective 3.3: Implement a 360-evaluation process for faculty and staff.

STRATEGIC GOAL 4: STUDENT SUCCESS

Strengthen K-8 curriculum and instruction to embrace diversity and differentiation for achieving academic, social, emotional, and cultural growth.

Objective 4.1: Increase academic support across all subgroups and build capacity to provide students with differentiated instruction, intervention, and enrichment.

Objective 4.2: Create a curriculum plan that guides K-8 instruction.

Objective 4.3: Align essential K-8 social and emotional competencies for successful development.

Objective 4.4: Expand project-based experiences around relevant, community driven, and hands-on learning aligned with curriculum goals.

STRATEGIC GOAL 5: DIVERSITY

Increase the racial and socio-economic diversity of Exploris educators and students to reflect that of Wake County.

Objective 5.1: Develop recruitment plan and remove barriers to increase the racial and socio-economic diversity of students and staff.

Objective 5.2: Secure funding to support needs of diverse school community.

Objective 5.3: Remove barriers for educationally disadvantaged students to ensure access to Exploris for all.

Objective 5.4: Develop strategies for helping students and families engage as community partners.

STRATEGIC GOAL 6: FINANCE

Acquire adequate financial resources to ensure long-term financial sustainability of Exploris.

Objective 6.1: Create a long-term financial plan and identify resources to ensure long-term financial sustainability of Exploris.

Objective 6.2: Develop sustainable operating budget to support strategic goals.

Objective 6.3: Expand the Finance Committee to further develop and execute financial strategies.

Objective 6.4: Create a salary structure for all staff that ensures the long-term financial stability of Exploris and ensures we are among the leading public schools in the Triangle.

Objective 6.5: Identify external sources and create a long-term development fund to support facility costs, and ongoing instructional and student support needs.

Objective 6.6: Ensure that revenue allocated towards facilities expenditures is less than 20 percent.