

Core Competency Information & Conversation Starters



The Core Competencies overarch all aspects of the renewed curriculum: the Big Ideas, Curricular Competencies, and Content. They are embedded in much of the learning that students do. As this is the first year that teachers and students have begun to explore this deep structure, we are working hard to ensure that students are mindful of their growth in the Core Competencies through self-reflection and by providing evidence of growth. The emphasis on self-reflection promotes personalization, inclusion, and diversity as it becomes a natural part of the learning process.

Just as teachers can support students in self-assessment of the Core Competencies by consistently noticing, naming, and nurturing them and their connection to the Curricular Competencies, so too can parents. This triangle of support between student, teacher, and home is integral to supporting learners in taking ownership of their personal learning as educated citizens.



Communication - The communication competency encompasses the set of abilities that students use to impart and exchange information, experiences and ideas, to explore the world around them, and to understand and effectively engage in the use of digital media.



Thinking - The thinking competency encompasses the knowledge, skills and processes we associate with intellectual development. It is through their competency as thinkers that students take subject-specific concepts and content and transform them into a new understanding. Thinking competence includes specific thinking skills as well as habits of mind, and metacognitive awareness.



Personal and Social - Personal and social competency is the set of abilities that relate to students' identity in the world, both as individuals and as members of their community and society. Personal and social competency encompasses the abilities students need to thrive as individuals, to understand and care about themselves and others, and to find and achieve their purposes in the world.

In order to help families have conversations with their child(ren) around the Core Competencies, we have a small selection of questions that you can use with your child(ren). There are many more questions that can be asked, but this is a start. Please keep in mind that the Core Competencies are about students' self-reflections of what they CAN DO, and are not based on grades, percents, or performance scales.

When asking your child(ren) one of the following questions, you can start with; "At school ..."



Communication:

- How did you show that you were listening thoughtfully? In what ways did your listening contribute to the group's understanding?



Critical Thinking:

- What strategies did you use to decide whether to believe something you read on a social media site? How did you develop these strategies? What advice would you give a younger student about figuring out what is true?



Creative Thinking:

- What helps you get new ideas? Tell me about a time when you felt really good about a new idea you had.



Social Responsibility:

- How do you use words and actions to encourage other students who might be feeling a bit sad or discouraged? [Prompt: What are some words and phrases you use?]



Positive and Personal Cultural Identity:

- What are your strengths as a learner?



Personal Awareness and Responsibility:

- Tell me about one of your learning goals for next year. How did you come to choose that goal? Tell me about something you are doing to help you work on that goal.