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# The Successful Great Neck Public School Student

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# GNPS Mission Statement

The ***Great Neck Public School District*** provides an ***innovative*** and ***collaborative*** educational environment that supports ***academic excellence*** and the ***social and emotional growth*** of all students so that they may become ***lifelong learners*** and ***compassionate, productive members*** of a diverse, global society.

# What is Innovation?

## *Innovation...*

- is the spark of insight that leads a learner to investigate an issue.
- arises from curiosity and is driven by a commitment to excellence and continuous improvement
- requires a willingness to take risks, and experiment to test assumptions.
- involves questioning and challenging the status quo.
- necessitates recognizing opportunity and taking advantage of it.

# What is a collaborative learning environment?

## *In a collaborative learning environment, students...*

are engaged in collaborative learning when working with others to solve a problem or answer a question.

While working together, they develop theories, test their ideas, and create evidence of their learning.

All learners benefit from the varying creative and skill-based strengths of the collective group in order to develop their own individual understandings.

# What is Academic Excellence?

## *An academically excellent student is...*

one who is prepared to be an ethical, civic-minded and engaged citizen, and is able perform well in their work. They:

- Master basic skills needed to begin university level work.
- Assume responsibility for their own academic development.
- Engender respect, motivation and interest in learning.
- Demonstrate higher-order cognitive skills.
- Persevere through challenges to reach their highest potential.

# What is Social-Emotional Learning?

## *Social and Emotional Learning...*

“is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.”

-[casel.org](https://casel.org)

# What is a Lifelong Learner?

## *Lifelong learners...*

are motivated to learn and develop because they want to - it is a deliberate and voluntary act for them. Lifelong learning provides increased opportunities to improve the quality of life and the world around us.

Human beings, by nature, are curious about their world. Developing lifelong learners requires us to nurture that innate curiosity and empower children to pursue their interests and wonderings.

# What is a compassionate member of society?

## *A compassionate member of society ...*

is respectful, thoughtful, and empathetic towards others.

In a compassionate environment, students understand that the uniqueness of every individual in the learning community is valued and respected, so that all members feel a sense of significance and belonging.

Compassionate students provide support and encouragement to one another to become the best versions of themselves.

# What is a productive member of society?

## *Productive members of society...*

live in such a way that they create conditions of safety, cooperation, interdependence, and trust.

Productive citizens increase these conditions by becoming involved in school and community affairs.

Productive members of society take part in the political process and demonstrate civic morality. They place the public good above their own interest and seek fairness, justice, and equity for all.