

Saltonstall School

Guiding Principles

School and community culture

We envision a school culture that values differing opinions, talents, and intelligences, that is empathetic and gives everyone the benefit of the doubt, that is professional, and that demonstrates the values of respect, tolerance, courage, and willingness to “pitch in.”

Equity and diversity

We have a commitment to equitable practices that honor diversity, promote personal growth of the entire community, and provide an education that is fair and purposeful.

Teaching and learning

We are all teachers and learners. Knowledge is collaboratively constructed; curriculum is integrated, knowledge based, and connected to the real world; learning is inquiry based, active, and involves problem solving, critical thinking, and reflection.

Assessment

The Saltonstall community looks at children’s learning in a variety of ways. Elements of our assessment process are observation, conferencing, portfolio, self-evaluation, demonstration, and exhibition, as well as traditional paper and pencil tests and standardized testing. We want to convey and reinforce the message that authentic learning happens in a myriad of ways, and to celebrate individual and collaborative success.

Multiple Intelligences

We are committed to using Multiple Intelligences Theory as the foundation of our teaching practice because it encourages children to reflect on their learning, their strengths and their challenges.

~ MI challenges teachers to provide multiple ways of experiencing a subject, thereby leading to deeper understanding.

~ An MI approach infuses all subjects with a creativity that is stimulating for both teachers and students.

~ Through MI, children have the opportunity to share their understanding in a great variety of ways.

~ MI promotes active and interactive learning.

~ A commitment to using MI increases self-esteem because students are able to appreciate their individuality.

Multi-age classrooms

Multi-age instruction is a way of grouping children within a broader developmental span. Multi-age classrooms are organized with the understanding that children learn best when they are able to progress at their own rate. There are many reasons we believe in multi-age instruction at Saltonstall:

~ It is developmentally appropriate and encourages powerful learning for all our children.

~ It teaches children how to belong to a community in a meaningful, “real-world” way.

~ It helps us get to know our students and their families well.