

PHILOSOPHY

The Wall School District 51-5 believes the following about students and learning:

1. Learning is a natural process and students have a natural inclination to learn and pursue personally relevant learning goals.
2. Students learn when they are able to make sense of knowledge through organizational processes that link new information with existing knowledge in memory in uniquely meaningful ways.
3. Student think creatively, critically, and develop expertise when exposed to strategies that assist them to think about how they think.
4. Learning is influenced by one's beliefs, goals, expectations, feelings, and motivation.
5. Students enjoy learning in the absence of intense negative thoughts and emotions.
6. Learning tasks of optimal difficulty, relevancy, authenticity, and freshness stimulate higher order thinking processes.
7. Students proceed through identifiable progressions of physical, intellectual, emotional, and social development that are a function of unique genetic and environmental factors.
8. Learning is facilitated by providing opportunities to interact in diverse settings.
9. Learning is enhanced when individual relationships are mutually caring, appreciative, supporting, and accepting.
10. There are basic principles that apply to all learning and learners regardless of race, gender, ethnic background, handicapping condition, religion, social or economic status. Learners differ in preference, style or mode of learning, and rate or pace of learning. These differences are a result of environment and heredity.
11. All students are entitled to quality learning experiences.
12. All students can learn at higher levels of understanding.

The Wall School District 51-5 believes the following about schools and school districts:

1. All decisions should be based on the best information available.
2. Schools and school districts should seek quality and excellence in all that they do.
3. Open communication and trust are essential in the operation of the schools and school district.
4. Quality facilities, equipment, materials, and supplies are essential tools for the promotion of quality learning.
5. Essential human needs include belonging, a sense of power, enjoyment, and freedom.
6. Education of all children is a community responsibility.
7. Auxiliary and support systems can assist in providing a quality education.
8. The environment is important to learning.
9. Improvement is a continuous process.
10. Democratic ideals are worth preserving.