

Manhattan Beach Unified School District

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR DESIGN

Guiding principles are critical to the work of master-planning and school design. They prove invaluable as projects unfold, help leaders focus their work, and clarify important decisions when individual interests come in conflict with overall goals. The guiding principles below will provide ongoing design direction as MBUSD makes important educational, architectural and community decisions.

LC

Learner Centered

We believe that learner centered education must provide safe, engaging and challenging environments that focus on inquiry and problem solving, accommodating various approaches to individualized and collaborative learning. They should foster innovation, persistence and curiosity, inspiring students to be lifelong learners who contribute responsibly to their community and the world. Our schools should offer a variety of gathering spaces and learning opportunities, both indoor and outdoor, to display and celebrate students work and achievements.

NG

Nurturing the Whole Child

We believe in creating a comprehensive educational experience that reflects the critical importance of and interrelationship among all disciplines, including athletics, foreign language, language arts, math, science, social science, and the visual and performing arts. Our schools must reflect the importance of providing learners with a variety of academic, artistic, and athletic performance experiences to facilitate an understanding of the synergies between areas of study.

CP

Community Partner

We believe we are partners in upholding the high quality of the Manhattan Beach community. We benefit from the tremendous support of our community members and, therefore, our campuses must continue to be community centers as much as centers for learning. With this commitment comes the responsibility of campus design to find a balance between openness and safety and security.

AM

Aesthetics Matter

We believe that through cost conscious design we must convey the high value we put in education to our learners, our staff, and the greater community while respecting historic architectural character. Whether an educator, learner, or neighbor, all need to feel a sense of dignity and ownership of their surroundings that inspires imagination and exploration. Safety and security measures will be integrated into the campus designs maintaining a welcoming aesthetic experience.

T

Leverage Technology

We believe our learning spaces must remain relevant by leveraging technology to allow our learning environments to adapt, evolve, and grow as learning strategies change over time. Our schools must facilitate learning that can take place anywhere, at any time, using various media and devices. Technology connects our learners to global knowledge beyond the learning space, and provides academic equity and parity for all learners.

S

Sustainability

We believe that our schools must be models of sustainability and energy efficiency to be good stewards of global resources and taxpayer dollars, encouraging lifelong awareness and ecologically responsible practices for our learners. Design must consider conservation of resources and durability and maintainability of materials and systems.

