

Beliefs 1-30-2009 Goodman Center

1. We believe that excellent public education is necessary for ensuring a democratic society. HOPPER

2. We believe in the dignity, abilities, and life experiences of every individual in our community.

New: We believe every individual possesses dignity, abilities and valuable life experience.

Alt: We believe in treating individuals with dignity and respect for their abilities and life stories.

3. We believe in an inclusive community in which all have the right to contribute. HOPPER

4. We believe we have a collective responsibility to create and sustain a safe environment that is respectful, engaging, vibrant and culturally responsive. HOPPER

5. We believe that every individual can learn and will grow as a learner. HOPPER

- *Expectations are high and clear*
- *Our approach is individual by individual*
- *Strong partnerships exist between families, schools, and communities*
- *Effective educational practices are utilized*

6. We believe in continuous improvement informed by critical evaluation and reflection. HOPPER

7. We believe that resources are critical to education and we are responsible for their equitable and effective use. HOPPER

8. NEW: We believe that academic achievement is not predicted by race, class, disability, sexual orientation, gender or home language.

9. We believe in culturally relevant education that provides the knowledge and skills to meet the global challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. HOPPER