

## **MISSION**

The mission of Rockland District Middle School is to inspire and empower all students to excel both academically and socially and prepare them to be productive citizens and future leaders.

## **VISION**

Our vision as administrators, faculty, and staff of Rockland District Middle School is to provide optimal learning experiences, to prepare each student to graduate on time, and to teach, model, and encourage lifelong learning, academic achievement, exemplary character and good citizenship skills.

### **We expect that our students will:**

- develop and retain an appreciation for the arts
- attend school regularly and arrive promptly in the classroom
- actively participate in their own learning
- think critically
- solve real-life problems
- exhibit creativity
- use technology effectively to access and process information
- develop and deepen Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) skills.
- learn how to work independently and with others
- demonstrate strong communication skills
- accept challenges and take intellectual risks in order to meet or exceed standards
- have an appreciation for learning as a life-long process
- understand the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of citizenship and have respect for all people and property
- build positive character traits
- actively apply study skills
- develop a desire to excel in all academic areas. Every class should be fun and enjoyable for each student and apply to their learning styles!
- reflect upon their learning and their actions.
- effectively develop positive Habits of Mind:
  - Persistence
  - Managing Impulsivity
  - Listening with Understanding and Empathy
  - Thinking Flexibly
  - Thinking about Thinking (Metacognition)

- Striving for Accuracy and Precision
- Questioning and Posing Problems
- Applying Past Knowledge to New Situations
- Thinking and Communicating with Clarity and Precision
- Gathering Data Through All Senses
- Creating, Imagining, and Innovating
- Responding with Wonderment and Awe
- Taking Responsible Risks
- Finding Humor; Thinking Interdependently
- Learning Continuously

**Our beliefs work together to form the foundation for all of our actions. We believe that:**

- the ultimate commitment of the school system is to the students
- every individual student has potential, can learn, and should have an equal opportunity to learn
- the acquisition of academic knowledge is the right and the responsibility of each student
- self-esteem, which derives from hard work, persistence, and pride in accomplishments, should be developed and encouraged in each individual
- students can and will learn the life skills of respect, responsibility, and readiness to become contributing members of the school and community
- a positive, trusting relationship and rapport between teacher and student is essential for maximum learning to take place
- accountability for student learning is the shared responsibility of students, teachers, staff, administrators, parent(s)/guardian(s), and community
- parent(s)/guardian(s) are the child's first teachers and parental involvement enhances the educational process
- active community involvement is an important component of the educational process
- students learn best when they are actively engaged in the learning process in the classroom and extracurricular activity
- high standards and expectations are a prerequisite to achieving excellence.
- the uniqueness of the individual and the strength of diversity will be supported and respected
- a variety of assessment tools is essential to accurately evaluate student achievement and create effective and meaningful instruction