

**PORTOLA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN: 2013 – 2018  
PART 1 – THE “WHAT”**

**VISION**

**WE ARE AN INNOVATIVE LEARNING COMMUNITY INSPIRING THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF ALL OUR CHILDREN.**

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

1. To be successful, children need a broad set of skills that includes a core academic foundation, higher-order thinking, and character education.
2. Children learn best when deeply engaged in authentic learning experiences.
3. We serve children with a variety of different learning styles and will help each of them reach their full potential.
4. Students, teachers and staff do their best work within a culture of mutual respect, personal responsibility, and kindness.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS**

**1. DEVELOP CREATIVE, PASSIONATE LEARNERS.**

Students will:

- Demonstrate continual growth toward high-level mastery of foundational skills.
- Learn in an environment where project-based learning and differentiation are key instructional approaches within an integrated curriculum.
- Engage deeply in real-world learning experiences that develop higher-order thinking skills.

**2. NURTURE CONNECTED, CONTRIBUTING GLOBAL CITIZENS.**

Students will:

- Develop personal responsibility, self-awareness and individual voice.
- Engage in learning experiences that promote perseverance, risk-taking and resiliency.
- Contribute to a shared purpose within the classroom, school and larger community.
- Respect other cultures and points of view.

**3. COMMIT TO TRANSFORMATIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.**

The District will:

- Invest in training the entire staff in common core standards and project-based learning.
- Foster a culture of sharing and collaboration that supports individual and organizational growth.
- Develop a long-range systemic professional development plan for continuous growth.

**4. FOSTER A RESPECTFUL AND COLLABORATIVE CULTURE.**

Our staff, parents and larger community will:

- Honor every child and put the needs of children first in everything we do.
- Embrace and model shared values.
- Engage in informed, transparent decision-making and proactively communicate.