

EdTalk: December 31, 2021

Dr. David Leach, WVCSD Superintendent of Schools

This generation recognizes that it has a responsibility to the future, just as earlier generations have contributed to the development of today's Warwick. Our goal is to address the needs of all students so that they can achieve even more than they imagined. Our hopes and dreams are as unique as the students we teach, but they all share a common thread: a school community dedicated to providing high-quality instruction and learning. Individual students and teachers, the quality of their interactions, and the strong commitment shared by school and home remain the district's biggest strengths.

Now that we are into a new calendar year and students are back from winter recess, let's take a moment to reset and think about the goals we have for our learners. We want our students to know that learning does not stop at the end of the school day, nor does it end when they graduate high school or college; it is a lifetime opportunity to grow as individuals and members of our society.

To that end, at WVCSD, we focus on the attributes of our Portrait of a Graduate in everything we do. These are the seven attributes that we want our students to possess by the time they graduate from Warwick Valley High School:

Collaborator

Collaborators hear, acknowledge, and appreciate a diversity of perspectives in conversation. They foster strong group dynamics by remaining open to varied opinions and valuing the input of others. When forming ideas and solving problems, they solicit suggestions from others and consult multiple sources to inform their opinions and conclusions. Collaborators unite those around them to achieve a common goal.

Communicator

Communicators connect with people who are both like and unlike them. Communicators read and listen; they carefully research and ask questions. They know their topics, know their audiences, and can grasp broad ideas to distill and make them digestible for others. They write, speak and present their ideas digitally in ways that advance learning by educating and empowering.

Creator/Innovator

Creators/Innovators utilize their imagination and evidence-based knowledge. They strategize to solve problems, investigate answers to their questions, and meet challenges with solutions to further their learning. They often share their ideas and feelings through the arts, design, and building processes. Creators/Innovators consider information from different sources and apply it in new ways to make things, disseminate ideas or provide solutions. They carefully examine their sources and consider the potential impact on others.

Ethical and Global Citizen

Ethical and Global Citizens are neighbors to the world, exhibiting empathy, compassion, and respect for others. They strive to understand various cultures and perspectives outside their own, including language study. They consider the day's issues through the lens of local, national, and global perspectives – from social issues to environmental issues. Ethical and Global Citizens must act with integrity, be community-minded and understand the foundations of our nation – both rights and privileges – and the responsibilities we share with others in the global community.

Resilient Individual

Resilient Individuals make good choices that enable them to persevere when challenges arise. They choose to maintain a healthy body and mind and surround themselves with supportive, positive people. They stay goal-oriented and tackle tasks through successful planning. Resilient Individuals understand that self-reflection and advocacy are keys to growth and self-improvement.

Problem Solver

When faced with unique challenges, Problem Solvers are equipped with the knowledge and drive necessary to meet those challenges with understanding and ingenuity. They recognize society's needs and come up with original ideas, offer astute alternatives, and identify unseen connections that lead to new solutions. Problem Solvers are generous with their efforts toward a positive resolution and unselfish about the benefits those ends will deliver to the community.

Lifelong Learner

Lifelong Learners don't just love learning; they are dedicated to understanding themselves and their world more and more over time. They are enthusiastic and hopeful about what new knowledge they may be able to obtain from and for their global community. Lifelong Learners can be professionals dedicated to their research, artists committed to expression, or anyone who has made self-directed learning an essential part of their personal growth. They honor the work of their teachers by embracing and continuing their own education beyond the classroom for their lifetime.