

INSTRUCTIONAL PLATFORM

Significant and sustainable learning requires effective and efficient instruction, characterized by the knowledge and application of a variety of methods to achieve progress towards clearly defined standards. Sound instructional decision-making in School District Number One is guided by a specific set of shared beliefs.

About how children learn, we believe...

- learning is an active process, requiring participation and communication by students, teachers, administrators, parents and the community.
- students learn best when they are challenged with knowledge and skills matched to their developmental levels.
- a deeper understanding of knowledge and skills is built when students make connections with past learning and across content areas.
- when students see a need and application for learning and experience enjoyment and success in the process, continued academic success is more likely to occur.
- when students assume responsibility for their learning, including reflecting on their work and communicating progress to others in a variety of ways, learning is more significant.

About how we teach, we believe...

- instructional decisions should be made on the basis of a knowledge of research and identified best practices.
- instruction should focus on the district's statements of essential learning and result in an in-depth understanding of their underlying ideas, patterns, and relationships.
- sound instruction rests on the teacher's competent control of the subject matter.
- instruction should guide students towards applying, analyzing and evaluating information, resulting in significant and sustainable learning.
- instruction is more effective when teachers participate in the collaborative development of curriculum on a consistent and continuous basis.
- instructional decisions should be based on a recognition of varied learning styles and the specific needs of the learner.

About how the building's and district's environment and culture support teaching and learning, we believe...

- an orderly and emotionally safe environment enhances learning
- the school community should provide opportunities for students to play a significant role in their own learning
- effective and productive learning are supported in a school that models a sense of community among all students and adults
- all members of the educational community should support instructional diversity, allowing for the use of a variety of strategies and materials which match district standards and essential learnings.
- curriculum development should support sound instruction which emphasizes depth rather than breadth

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Community Curriculum Council: 2/25/98

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School District #1, Sweetwater County, Wyoming