



Carmel Clay Schools

21st Century Habits of Mind

Current educational literature and many professional organizations frequently speak to the importance of 21st century skills and dispositions that students must acquire to succeed and prosper in school, on the job, and throughout life in a global economy. These skills and dispositions, or habits of mind, are threaded throughout the recently adopted Common Core State Standards for English/language arts and mathematics. Additionally, AdvancEd will implement revised accreditation standards in 2012 that will include emphasis on student acquisition of these competencies. While definitions of these specific skills and habits of mind vary somewhat across the professional literature, certain common ideas emerge including critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, and communication skills.

In 2010-2011 the District Accreditation Leadership Team (DALT) studied various definitions from both educational and business literature and created a crosswalk of common themes. From this information, the team developed a working definition of 21st century skills and habits of mind for the purpose of establishing a common language and understanding across the district. The following have been identified to teach within the context of all core knowledge instruction.

All Carmel Clay Students will:

1. Acquire a base of critical content knowledge and skills as foundation for more complex understandings.
2. Access, synthesize, and evaluate information from diverse sources and perspectives to solve problems and create new knowledge.
3. Critique and justify one's own conclusions, arguments, and theories as well as those of others by citing pertinent evidence from credible sources.
4. Work both independently and collaboratively with others to successfully accomplish meaningful goals.
5. Communicate ideas clearly and precisely in written and oral form using a variety of tools and media.
6. Select and utilize the most appropriate technology tools for diverse tasks and the pursuit of inquiry.
7. Demonstrate ownership of learning through goal-setting, self-direction, and personal assessment of and reflection on one's own progress.
8. Value and exercise personal responsibility, strong character, ethical behavior, and an appreciation for the richness of diverse cultures and perspectives.