

COLLABORATIVE ALTERNATIVE MAGNET SCHOOL FOR LEADERSHIP

An ACES Interdistrict Magnet School



LEADERSHIP THROUGH EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING



Mission

Collaborative Alternative Magnet School for Leadership (CAMS) recognizes and uses individual, diverse strengths of students, grades 7 -12, to generate commitment to and accountability for academic and personal growth.

As a small alternative learning environment, CAMS offers students choices and opportunities to develop leadership skills through experiential/adventure learning, technology, art and creativity.

As a school whose focus is on leadership, the CAMS school culture is developed and sustained through practices that bring the community together, promote shared understandings, and encourage all community members to become crew, not passengers. Teaching practices and school wide structures ensure that all students are well known by adults and peers. The faculty articulates and promotes a set of LEADER character traits that are emphasized throughout the school. Teachers foster student character through challenging academic work and the expectations that students are courteous, respectful, and compassionate. Public and classroom spaces reflect the values of our LEADER expectations, showcase the work of students, and facilitate collaboration.

What I hear I forget. What I see I remember. What I do I understand.

Chinese Proverb

Program Goals

- To promote student social, emotional and academic growth through the concepts of experiential/adventure learning
- To develop competence in academic areas supported by technology
- To foster community involvement through authentic learning tasks
- To use problem-based learning strategies to increase skill, understanding and motivation
- To develop leaders with confidence and the commitment to post-secondary goals
- To promote understanding and confidence in the values of diversity
- To engage families to support academic and social goals for CAMS students
- To establish professional learning communities

Leadership Through Experiential/Adventure Learning

Collaborative Alternative Magnet School for Leadership (CAMS) is designed to help re-engage students who have become disenfranchised from education. This re-engagement takes place through a focus on leadership. Students are challenged to become a LEADER = Loyal, Engaged, Accepting, Disciplined, Exceptional, and Responsible/Respectful. CAMS provides a challenging academic environment in which students are guided through authentic learning tasks as they actualize their potential as a learner.

Classes are characterized by their small size and active learning; students cite caring and supportive staff members and challenging work as reasons for their success.

Experiential/Adventure learning is based on the idea that people learn more when they are:

- actively involved
- feel a sense of control over what they are learning
- find a relevancy and attractiveness in material
- are provided with opportunities for reflection
- can make connections with other life aspects and future learning

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