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Dear Garrison School Community,

After coming to the community to ask for ideas on this topic in the fall, a representative group of teachers, administrators, parents and Board of Education members have been working over the last few months to draft a Garrison Vision of the Graduate (see attachment). Once completed, the Vision will provide the focus for a district strategic planning effort to follow.

The Vision is comprised of both skills (Foundational Literacies, Communication & Expression, Critical & Creative Thinking) and dispositions (Curiosity & Resilience, Character & Empathy, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion). A full description is included in the attachment. We define skills as developmentally predictable and highly measurable cognitive elements that can be taught, assessed and acquired by every student over time. The bulleted indicators listed beneath each skill are all inclusive and considered critical and required for success. The dispositions in the Vision are more akin to values – these are behaviors or characteristics that we believe are foundational to success for every student and worthy of modeling and praise but are challenging to measure consistently. Subsequently, the items listed under the dispositions are intended to be examples – there are many more possibilities for others and each student will find their own way to express how they are interpreting these elements.

We are interested in your feedback on the work that has been done so far, and to gather it we are once again going to use the platform Thoughtexchange. To enter the exchange you can click on the following link

<https://my.thoughtexchange.com/525210595>

or

Go to Thoughtexchange.com, click “Join” and enter the code 525-210-595

or

Open the IOS Thoughtexchange app, select “Join” and enter the code 525-210-595

The group will consider this feedback before finalizing the Vision of the Graduate and launching the Strategic Coherence Planning process. It could take you as little as 5 - 10 minutes to participate. You can enter your thoughts at your own pace and come back to review your answers at anytime.

Thank you for your help in making this a successful effort.

Carl Albano

Superintendent of Schools