



September 10, 2021: The CDS Learner Profile

Dear CDS Community,

If you know me, you know that I spend a lot of time with tears in my eyes as I look at students in their element. They bring me joy and overwhelm me as I think about the incredible potential they represent to us all. Today was one of those moments as I saw our oldest students during Friday Assembly reflecting on the experience they have had the first two weeks of school. They highlighted how these experiences align to the core dispositions and skills we have showcased in the new [Learner Profile](#).

CDS has always been a school that has focused on “the whole child” – [our mission](#) illustrates this well in the phrase *what you learn and who you become are equally important*. The Learner Profile is a consolidation of our thoughts on the frame of learning that we believe is important today and will be increasingly important in the future. This frame gives our students (and even adults) the opportunity to develop specific expertise in learning and then hang grade-level content and subject matter learning onto this frame.

The core skills of *collaboration, self-direction, communication, research/inquiry, and critical and creative thinking* along with the dispositions of *curiosity and open-mindedness, resilience and persistence, social and emotional intelligence, humility, reflection and responsiveness, and advocacy, activism and civic engagement* provide us all with language to talk about the development of the whole child (and adults) in the CDS community. These are skills and dispositions that are never mastered; we are presented with opportunities to practice and enhance them in our daily lives. The vocabulary gives us an opportunity to speak the same language about these high-order habits and continue to support the growth of our community.

I look forward to being on this learning journey with you.

Warmly,
Shelly