

Danbury Public Schools
Universal Skills for Grades 6-12



Students will...

1. develop and apply critical thinking strategies by:

- a. building, activating, and connecting relevant background knowledge
- b. identifying and asking significant questions that clarify and lead to better understandings
- c. analyzing how parts of a whole interact with each other to produce outcomes
- d. interpreting information and drawing conclusions based on analysis
- e. analyzing and evaluating evidence, arguments, claims, and beliefs
- f. synthesizing and making connections between information and arguments
- g. solving different kinds of unfamiliar problems in both conventional and innovative ways
- h. reflecting critically on learning experiences and problem solving processes

2. use real-world digital and other research tools to access, evaluate, and effectively apply information appropriate for authentic tasks by:

- a. managing the flow of and evaluating information from a wide variety of sources
- b. applying a fundamental understanding of the ethical and legal issues surrounding the access and use of information
- c. selecting solutions to problems that are appropriate to the task

3. communicate written, visual, and oral information clearly using a variety of media for different contexts and purposes by:

- a. listening to decipher meaning, including knowledge, values, attitudes, and intentions
- b. choosing communication tools to align message, audience, and purpose
- c. communicating in diverse environments

4. demonstrate innovation, flexibility and adaptability in thinking patterns, work habits, and working/learning environment by:

- a. reflecting and articulating upon their thinking processes and the environments in which their thinking is enhanced or inhibited
- b. using a wide range of idea creation techniques to create new and worthwhile ideas.
- c. elaborating, refining, analyzing, and evaluating their ideas in order to improve and maximize creative efforts
- d. demonstrating originality and inventiveness in work and understanding the potential impact of adopting new ideas
- e. viewing failure as an opportunity to learn; understanding that creativity and innovation is a long-term, cyclical process of small successes and frequent mistakes
- f. recognizing that individuals have multiple intelligences that can be expanded over time through work, effort, and determination

5. work independently and collaboratively to solve problems and accomplish goals by:

- a. sharing responsibility for collaborative work and assisting others in achieving individual and team goals
- b. considering new and diverse perspectives, group input, and feedback to inform decisions
- c. understanding, negotiating, and balancing diverse views and beliefs to reach workable solutions

6. value and demonstrate personal responsibility, character, cultural understanding and ethical behavior by:

- a. acting responsibly with the interests of the larger community in mind
- b. showing respect for all members of the community
- c. demonstrating empathy for others
- d. embracing and respecting all identities and cultures