

McLean Method: Elements of Strong Teaching

Creativity, innovation, and intellectual curiosity and academic achievement - by presenting opportunities for exploration and expression in an atmosphere where all community members flourish

- Have a willingness to model growth mindset to students through a willingness to grow, learn, and acknowledge mistakes
- Seek opportunities to learn more about subject area and ways to best meet the needs of our changing student population
- Be on the “cutting edge” of education by learning about what other educators are doing and sharing our innovative successes with each other
- Use technology to enhance instruction and student learning
- Create useful student checklists and rubrics for projects
- Analyze both qualitative and quantitative student data to inform instruction
- Plan instruction that engages all students in high-quality, real world tasks directly related to curricular objectives and differentiate instruction to meet the needs of all learners

Diversity - in the academic, social, and professional environment as a fundamental ingredient to the full development of the individual

- Be conscious of the ways in which diversity of experiences, identities, and/or learning needs, impact students in their educational experiences
- Be aware of topics of diversity and equity that impact community members
- Be thoughtful about incorporating “windows and mirrors” representation when choosing curricular material
- Be willing and prepared to help students navigate topics of diversity and equity that come up in class and student life discussions
- Have awareness of learning preferences and challenges, how they manifest themselves in and out of the classroom, and how to positively interact with students around these topics
- Have a clear understanding of the impacts that learning differences have on students academically and behaviorally, and how to approach them in and out of the classroom
- Have a clear understanding of developmentally age appropriate skills and expectations
- Understand the difference between accommodations and modifications and how to implement these in and out of the classroom

Flexibility - to adapt our curriculum and teaching methods to the strengths and challenges of the individual learner

- Have awareness of student strengths and needs, learning preferences, and emotional states in order to respond quickly and effectively to students
- Adapt to meet the needs of students and help them identify their strengths/abilities

- Draw upon a “toolbox” of skills to assess the understanding of the students and adjust classes mid-year, or even mid-lesson, to meet their needs as learners
- Have a broad and deep knowledge of content area/skills to adapt to the needs and interests of students
- Compare and adapt lesson plans over time and discuss the rationale behind making changes
- Establish routines and expectations that allow for adjustments to be made during a lesson

Respect - through attentiveness to attitudes, behaviors, thoughts, words, and interactions

- Have a consistent plan for classroom management that is proactive and considerate of the developmental level of the students
- Help students learn respect through modeling respectful behaviors
- Appropriately utilize Honor & Discipline committees/protocols
- Develop meaningful relationships with students and parents through frequent communication, by being honest and showing humility

Wellness - provide a safe and nurturing environment that promotes physical, social, emotional, and academic well-being

- Execute homeroom/advisory duties to support students' well-being
- Integrate mindfulness practices into lessons to assist with transitions and help with classroom management
- Be aware of and have comfort using at least three mindfulness strategies with students (whether in 1-1, small group, or whole group)
- Understand individual emotional needs of students to best support classroom performance and behavior

A Welcoming Community - in which students, faculty, administration, and parents work collaboratively, combining their talents and ideas to improve the overall quality of our shared experience at McLean and more broadly

- Collaborate with teachers, parents, students, administration, staff, tutors, and specialists to support student learning and social/emotional growth
- Respond to parent and student concerns in an appropriate and timely manner
- Show support for students' extra curricular activities by coaching, teaching, volunteering, or attending games, matches, performances, or other activities
- Offer talents to the school community by leading clubs, running electives, tutoring, mentoring, etc.
- Understand and value the role of support staff and appropriately access their knowledge or support when needed
- Welcome feedback and questions from any member of the community