Developing 21st-Century Critical Thinkers

Integrate critical thinking skills within and across all content areas.

Establish safe, intellectually risk-free learning environments.

Provide students with repeated opportunities to practice higher-order thinking.

Consistently cultivate higher-order thinking skills.

Allow time to develop critical thinking skills.

Promote academic conversations or dialogue that foster critical thinking.

1. Think deeply to make relevant connections
2. Ask quality and clarification questions
3. Use evidence and reasoning to support thinking
4. Analyze, reason, and evaluate
5. Interpret information beyond surface learning
6. Synthesize diverse ideas
7. Solve relevant and complex problems
8. Make reasoned decisions
9. Generate and evaluate options prior to making decisions
10. Focus on details to derive meaning
11. Apply higher levels of thought to real-world situations
12. Think critically on a daily basis
13. Use criteria to judge the value of ideas and solutions
14. Engage in reflective thinking
15. Follow problem-solving steps
16. Question the credibility, accuracy, and relevancy of information and sources
17. Well-informed
18. Willing to consider multiple perspectives
19. Seek new and better solutions
20. Explore alternatives
21. Examine diverse points of view
22. Value and respect ideas of others
23. Question what is read, heard, or seen
24. Assess consequences of actions or ideas
25. Think independently and in concert with others