

# Newburyport Public Schools' Mission

Core values of the Newburyport Public Schools are expressed in our Mission Statement below. The Strategic Planning Working Committee began its discussion of a new strategic plan for the years 2008-2013 with an exploration of values. The existing mission statement and values, adopted in 2003, were reviewed and debated. Committee members put forward their own priority values and purposes for our school district. These values and purposes were shared over several weeks' time and strong consensus was reached on the adoption of a values list.

Committee members next reviewed the Superintendent's *Vision for The Newburyport Schools* document and created a draft list of strategic goal areas for a new strategic plan. These goal areas reflect specific school system improvements from the vision document, for example, improving crisis response, increasing time on learning, improving school facilities, and increasing student participation in community service. Additional goal areas were identified.

The Committee then created a "rock and lever" matrix that compared the agreed upon core values to the draft strategic goal areas in order to identify true priorities. This process resulted in the identification of three distinct sections for a strategic plan: Learning, Community, and Wellness. These concepts also led to subtle but important changes to the District's Mission Statement that now reflects the most important core values and the three major themes of this new strategic plan. The Mission Statement perspective was also changed from an "our schools" orientation to an "our students" point of view.

Mission statements can focus an organization on what really matters--to itself as well as to its stakeholders. Our hope is that this Mission Statement will be not only a guide to strategic and operational decision-making, but also a glue that binds our community in purpose and action.

## **Mission Statement**

**The Newburyport Public Schools are committed to the intellectual, physical, social development and engagement of every student.**

**Within a culture of high expectations for individual and group learning, our students experience rigorous academic challenge, are intellectually curious, and express themselves creatively.**

**Our students enhance their well-being by applying knowledge and skills about nutrition, fitness and healthy behaviors.**

**Our schools are an inclusive and supportive community. As part of this community, our students demonstrate values of personal integrity, sensitivity and social responsibility. Our schools partner with parents and community in significant ways to help achieve this mission. Members of our school community - teachers, parents, staff, and administration - support this mission every day, in every classroom, on every field of play, and in every activity.**