

## **Focus Group: Harriton High School Staff**

**Date: 4/11/14**

### **Key Questions**

#### **1. What should school look like ten years from now?**

##### Group 1:

Tracking – get rid of leveling

Safe place-

Emotionally and socially

Every student with an advisor/mentor/adult to consult regularly

Flexible schedule

No achievement gap

##### Group 2:

Collaboration emphasized

Ownership of learning on student

More blended/online learning

Programming and code will be a focus

##### Group 3:

Acceptance/diversity – total inclusion of all students

Digital citizenship

Intrinsically motivated

##### Group 4:

Fluid

Interdisciplinary

##### Group 5:

Community important

Collaborative learning

Flexibility/adaptation with/to technology

##### Group 6:

Interdisciplinary

Flexibility in graduation requirements

Relevant/hands on

##### Group 7:

Multi-lingual

Multi-cultural

Safe

No high-stakes testing

Collaboration

Challenging instruction

**2. What should a Lower Merion School District graduate look like? What are the skills, dispositions, and attitudes that we want for all students?**

Group 1:

Kind and responsible citizens  
Respectful  
Understand surroundings  
Empathy  
Excellent at problem solving  
Using creativity  
Resilient  
Resourceful  
Confident  
Service to school and community  
Enthusiasm for continued learning

Group 2:

Able to write code/computer programming  
Confident  
Compassionate  
Ethical leaders

Group 3:

Critical thinkers  
Resilient  
Compassionate

Group 4:

Character  
Active community members

Group 5:

Grit  
Global independence  
Ownership of learning  
Growth vs. fixed

Group 6:

Leadership skills  
Open minded/creative  
Ethical work habits  
Global awareness

Group 7:

Willingness to take academic risks  
Technologically literate  
Well-rounded  
Inspired to learn beyond the classroom  
Socially responsible/service

### **3. What do we value as a District? How do we hold onto our traditions while simultaneously embracing change?**

#### Group 1:

- Well-rounded students
- Challenge traditions/evaluate and refine
  - Look honestly at traditions
- Maintain/value arts and humanities
- Value service

#### Group 2:

- Collaboration of all
- Diversity
- High expectations
  - Academic rigor
- Community involvement

#### Group 3:

- College not the path for all
- Diversity
- Value education

#### Group 4:

- High standards
- Inclusiveness
- Work ethic
- Kindness/compassion
- Cultural diversity
- Global communication
- Science Olympiad/Mr. Harriton/Day of Service

#### Group 5:

- Not “Cookie-Cutter”
  - Room for creative autonomy
- Great staff
- Parental involvement
  - More reciprocal/partnership desired
  - Differences (learning and otherwise)

#### Group 6:

- Giving Community for staff/students/LM community
  - Day of Service
  - Thanksgiving Food Drive
  - CAPE
  - Harriton Heart
- IB Program alongside AP Program

#### Group 7:

- Maximizing human potential
- Co-curricular experiences beyond the regular curriculum
- Excellence