



# CORE VALUES & DESIGN ELEMENTS

In 2017, City Charter Schools convened a diverse group of stakeholders to further define who we are and how we “live our values”. The results of this codification process express what make our schools unique, and defines us as City Charter Schools.

## EXCELLENCE

*Instruction inspires curiosity, and builds critical skills and deeper thinking and actively closes achievement gaps.*

- ◆ Collaborative learning:
  - Is student-driven
  - Inspires curiosity
  - Promotes deeper thinking
  - Develops creativity and innovation
- ◆ Relationships and relevance precede and facilitate rigor
- ◆ We close achievement gaps by providing meaningful and authentic contexts for skill-building that engage all students
- ◆ We develop student multilingual capacities and understanding of multicultural and linguistic identities
- ◆ Collaboration and problem-solving opportunities embrace different ways of learning and develop non-cognitive skills

## DIVERSITY

*We build intentionally diverse, welcoming, and equitable learning communities where students and staff develop self-awareness and cultural competence to build a better world.*

- ◆ Structural diversity is intentional, prioritized, and viewed as an asset to our community
- ◆ We establish and continuously work toward explicit equity goals and don't accept inequity as an outcome
- ◆ Multicultural practice pervades the culture and curriculum
- ◆ Cultural competence is not optional in our community
- ◆ All students, families, and staff have a meaningful place and a voice in the community regardless of their background

## COMMUNITY

*We have a great culture - we utilize relationships and social skills development to build a strong, safe, and supportive community.*

- ◆ We put relationships first, before everything.
- ◆ School is a safe and supportive family where every student is known well: no one can hide.
- ◆ Equity means everyone gets what they need to succeed.
- ◆ We value and consistently promote shared responsibility and leadership: everyone has a voice.
- ◆ Social-emotional learning and development is integral throughout the culture and curriculum.