

## Portsmouth School District Mission Statement

### *“Academics, Arts and Athletics”*

***The purpose of the Portsmouth Schools is to educate all students by challenging them to become responsible, contributing citizens who continue to learn throughout their lives.***

*(The Portsmouth School Board is committed to excellence defined as ensuring that every child in the Portsmouth School System achieves at high levels and that every student graduates college or career, and citizenship ready. The School Board is committed to see every child has a rich and rigorous experience in a wide range of curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular offerings and that every child's social and emotional and physical well-being is addressed. The Portsmouth School Department is a “learning organization” and continuously reflects on how to improve upon and more efficiently deliver education in the early 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The Portsmouth School Board recognizes the singular most important predictor of student success is the quality of the student's classroom teacher. The School Board is committed to ensuring every child has first –rate, highly effective teachers. To these ends, the School Department has implemented the Professional Learning Communities model as its strategy to ensure that a rigorous curriculum, careful monitoring of student learning and timely and systematic intervention and enrichment take place to ensure the growth of every learner as well as provide job-embedded professional learning for teachers.*

*Additionally, the School Board recognizes that technology is a necessary instructional tool for highly skilled teachers to deliver essential knowledge and skills and should be integrated with the curriculum. The School Board is committed to provide students and staff a well maintained, safe and respectful learning environment. The School Board provides students a high quality education program while managing taxpayers' dollars as effectively as possible; the Board has established key metrics and a cohort group to ensure the district is performing at a level commensurate with its resources.*

*The Portsmouth School Department recognizes that all successful school districts must have parents, community and school personnel working together for student achievement. School to home communication is critical as we partner with families to support student learning; however, it is important to communicate effectively to all stakeholders of the District's plans, priorities and progress. Specifically, the School Board has set the following annual goals.)*

### School Board Goals 2011-2012

1. **Support the Portsmouth School District's mission to educate all students by:**
  - Monitoring Year # 3 of our Professional Learning Communities (PLC) initiative particularly building team SMART goals and implementation of Intervention/Enrichment blocks.
  - Completing K-12 technology plan that focuses on using technology to enhance teaching and student learning.
  - Adopting K-12 curriculum frameworks in art, music, health/PE, Tech Informational Literacy and Comprehensive Guidance.
2. **Implement policies, procedures and practices that will allow the Portsmouth School District to continuously improve its organizational systems and structures by:**
  - Improving how the district attracts, retains and develops talent.
  - Determining structure and facilities for K-5 program for the next few decades as well as resolving elementary space issues for 2012-2013.
  - Defining, within the year, the technology infrastructure (i.e., platform, educational tools).
  - Monitoring staff supervision and evaluation process with staff in both the peer and administrative cycles.
3. **Develop specific strategies for improving communication and community relations including frequent communication about the Portsmouth Schools and opportunities to engage the community in conversation about school related issues.**
  - Creating a robust communication plan and effective communication strategy and system.
  - Continuing to track and report the district's performance against a peer cohort group.
4. **Examine ways to ensure district resources are aligned with the district's strategies to achieve its mission.**
  - Providing more opportunities for hands-on experiences and problem-solving (e.g., Destination Imagination).
  - Articulating criteria for appropriate class size.
  - Identifying how to expand physical education offerings and physical activity opportunities.