



## **POLICY 601 – SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish broad curriculum parameters for Parnassus Preparatory School (the “School” or “Parnassus”) that encompass the Minnesota Academic Standards and federal law.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

It is the policy of the School to establish learner results toward which all learning in the school should be directed and for which all school learners should be held accountable. Parnassus academic standards will meet or exceed all state mandated standards and will promote Parnassus’ established classical framework.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

#### **A. Instruction**

“Instruction” means methods of providing learning experiences that enable students to meet state and academic standards and graduation requirements.

#### **B. Curriculum**

“Curriculum” means School adopted programs and written plans for providing students learning experiences that lead to expected knowledge and skills.

### **IV. STUDENT PERFORMANCE GOALS**

#### **A. Essential Skills**

All students will be required to demonstrate essential skills to effectively participate in lifelong learning. These skills include:

1. reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing in the English language, with every child reading at or above grade level every year, beginning in Prima (Kindergarten), and multilingual learners and students receiving special education services are receiving support in achieving their individualized reading goals;
2. mathematical and scientific concepts;
3. locating, organizing, communicating and evaluating information and developing methods of inquiry (i.e. problem solving);
4. creative and critical thinking, decision making and study skills;
5. work readiness skills;
6. global and cultural understanding.

**B.     Development of Essential Knowledge**

Each student will have the opportunity and will be expected to develop and apply essential knowledge that enables that student to:

1. live as a responsible, productive citizen and consumer within local, state, national and global political, social, and economic systems;
2. bring many perspectives, including historical, to contemporary issues;
3. develop a respect for democratic institutions;
4. communicate and relate effectively in languages and with cultures other than the student's own;
5. practice stewardship of the land, natural resources and environment;
6. use a variety of tools and technology to gather and use information, enhance learning, solve problems, and increase human productivity.

**C.     Creativity and Expression**

Parnassus' students will have the opportunity to develop creativity and self-expression through visual and verbal images, music, literature, world languages, movement and the performing arts.

**D.     Self Image and Responsibility**

Parnassus' practices and instruction will be directed toward developing within each student a positive self-image and a sense of personal responsibility.

**E.     Human Relations Skills**

Parnassus' students will be given the opportunity to acquire human relations skills necessary to function constructively within various groups.

**V.    LONG-TERM STRATEGIC PLAN**

**A.     Compliance with World's Best Workforce and State North Star Plan**

The Board, at a public meeting, must adopt a comprehensive, long-term strategic plan to support and improve teaching and learning that is aligned with creating the world's best workforce and includes the following:

1. clearly defined charter school and school site goals and benchmarks for instruction and student achievement for all student categories identified in Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.35, subdivision 3, paragraph (b)(2).;
2. a process to assess and evaluate each student's progress toward meeting state and local academic standards

3. a system to periodically review and evaluate the effectiveness of all instruction and curriculum, including the academic achievement of English Learners, as outlined in Policy 616 – School Accountability;
4. a process to examine the equitable distribution of teachers and strategies to ensure that students are equitably taught by experienced, effective, in-field teachers;
5. effective education practices that integrate high quality instruction and rigorous curriculum; and
6. an annual budget for continuing to implement the charter school plan.

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### ***Legal References***

1. Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process for Reviewing Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement; Striving for the World's Best Workforce)
2. Minn. Stat. § 120B.12 (Read Act Goal and Interventions)
3. Minn. Stat. § 120B.35, Subd. 3 (Student Academic Achievement and Growth)
4. 20 U.S.C. § 5801, *et seq.* (National Education Goals)
5. 20 U.S.C. § 6301, *et seq.* (Every Student Succeeds Act)

### ***Cross References***

1. Policy 616 School Accountability