

THE HABITS OF MIND

SPOTLIGHT



At Prairie Creek, part of our mission is to educate children to live as responsive, responsible members of their own communities, now and into the future. We use the Habits of Mind as a framework to help children realize this lofty goal. habitsofmindinstitute.org/

Back in 2002 the teachers at Prairie Creek read a book called The Habits of Mind by Art Costa and Bena Kallick. Costa and Kallick's mission is to "transform school into learning communities where thinking and Habits of Mind are taught, practiced, valued and infused into the culture." Their vision "is to create a more thoughtful, cooperative, compassionate generation of people who skillfully work to resolve social, environmental, economic and political problems."

THE 16 HABITS OF MIND

1. Persisting
2. Managing impulsivity
3. Listening to Others with Understanding and Empathy
4. Thinking Flexibly
5. Thinking about Our Thinking (Metacognition)
6. Striving for Accuracy
7. Questioning and Posing Problems
8. Applying Past Knowledge to New Situations
9. Thinking and Communicating with Clarity and Precision
10. Gathering Data Through All Senses
11. Creating, Imagining and Innovating
12. Responding with Wonderment and Awe
13. Taking Responsible Risks
14. Finding Humor
15. Thinking Interdependently
16. Learning Continuously



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR MISSION

The Habits of Mind resonate with faculty and dovetail with our mission. We use the language of the Habits of Mind with children beginning in kindergarten and continuing throughout their years at Prairie Creek. Children become well versed in the language and move toward developing stronger and more nuanced understandings of the Habits with each passing year. For the youngest children, the Habits of Mind are perhaps best understood in the concrete. *Managing Impulsivity* might be applied to learning to walk in the halls when your impulse is to run. An older child might see this Habit come into play when their mind was wandering during a lesson and they found ways to bring themselves back to the learning at hand. Similarly *Taking a Responsible Risk* at K-1 might look like tackling a physical task while a 4-5 student could begin to see it as attempting a difficult academic task.

CONTINUITY THROUGH THE CURRICULUM

The Habits are part of Prairie Creek's culture at every turn.

Some examples:

- Habits of Mind are connected to children's portfolio choices at every grade level.
- Self-reflection often includes conversation about Habits of Mind and how they were important to learning.
- Teachers and children refer to Habits of Mind in All School Gatherings and during classroom conversations
- Teachers often use Habits of Mind as part of children's narrative reports
- Outdoor Education is an excellent place to practice and develop Habits of Mind on our school grounds and further afield at the 2-3 Camp-In and the 5th grade annual week at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center
- We invite families to join us in using the language of Habits of Mind at home.