



**JOSEPH SEARS**  
EST. 1899

## Kenilworth School District No. 38 Strategic Plan Draft

### Visionary Theme/Tagline

TBD

### Mission Statement

The Joseph Sears School provides children with a challenging and comprehensive education within a supportive learning community. We empower children to pursue their passions and reach their full potential by teaching them to embrace a spirit of creativity, curiosity and courage.

### Values

We are committed to a ***differentiated learning model*** where instruction is delivered according to each child's interests, academic readiness and unique learning style.

We embrace our ***guiding virtues*** of Responsibility, Kindness, Honesty and Respect as these Four Cornerstones are practiced and upheld by all members of our learning community.

We celebrate our ***small, collaborative learning community*** and the traditions we uphold that foster a sense of togetherness and belonging throughout our District.

We strive to remain an ***exceptional organization*** focused on continuous improvement, retention and development of high-performing educators and the alignment of District resources to the educational mission of The Joseph Sears School.

### Strategic Goals

#### **Student Growth and Learning**

*Align curriculum, instruction and assessment to the mission and educational philosophy of The Joseph Sears School*

#### **Personnel Development & Retention**

*Hire, develop and retain high-performing faculty and staff that embrace continuous improvement in service of Sears students*

#### **Community Partnerships**

*Engage all Sears families and community organizations to communicate and collaborate in a respectful and transparent manner*

#### **Fiscal and Operational Responsibility**

*Maintain a solid short- and long-term financial position while investing in resources and infrastructure that align with educational priorities*

#### **Learning Environment**

*Effectively leverage physical space and technology to provide students and faculty with an environment that promotes learning and innovation*

# EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Draft – 1/25/18

## I. Statement of Purpose

*Every child comes to The Joseph Sears School with unique passions, intellectual gifts and talents that should be explored and developed. We as educators embrace our role in guiding children by providing them with a challenging and comprehensive education that deepens their understanding of the world and their relationship to it. We believe in a balance of innovative and traditional learning that engages students as scholars and as lifelong learners. We believe that such an education prepares children to thrive academically after graduation and lead fulfilling lives throughout their formative years and beyond.*

## II. Core Instructional Beliefs

*Sears empowers students to take responsibility for their own education by providing them with engaging, inquiry-based curriculum delivered by dynamic educators. Sears places students at the center of the learning process through instruction differentiated for each scholar with an emphasis on growth and mastery. We acknowledge that each learner achieves his or her potential at different rates and stages. We are committed to providing students with meaningful educational programming that allows them to set goals, strengthen their interpersonal skills, develop resilience and use critical and creative thinking to refine the tools they have in order to proceed confidently onward.*

## III. Commitment to Personal Development

*Creativity, curiosity and courage are fundamental tenets of a Joseph Sears School education. As such, Sears facilitates a supportive environment where students are challenged to grow by taking risks and exploring the creative process. In partnership with Sears families and community organizations, Sears helps students grow to become conscientious citizens through learning and practicing the guiding values of Responsibility, Kindness, Honesty and Respect.*