

The Chemistry of College and Career Skills



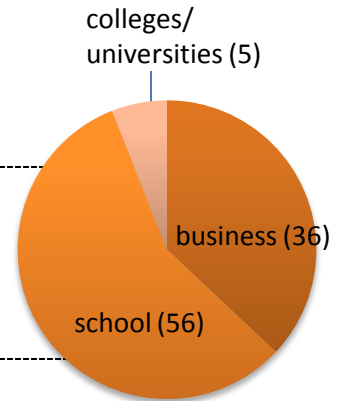
The Process

7

sessions were held across the Ottawa Area to discuss what “soft” or “21st Century” skills students within the Intermediate School District will need in order to be prepared for college and a career.

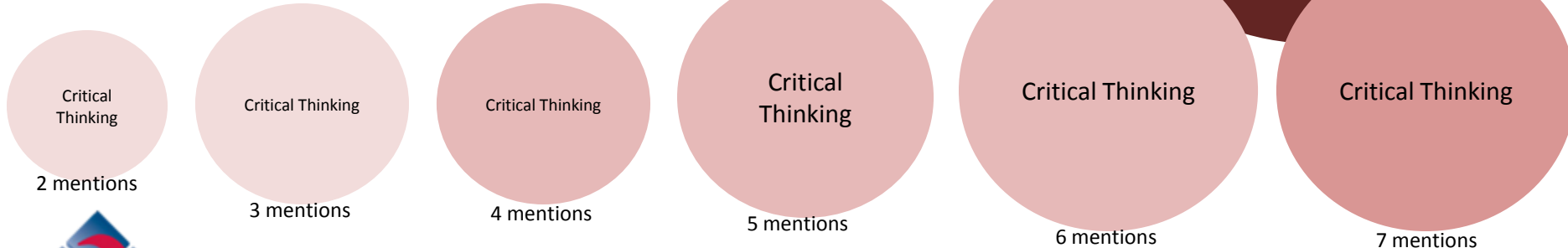
97

individuals from the Intermediate School District, Local School Districts, local businesses and colleges and universities attended these sessions (see the chart to the right for a break-down for each of these groups).



At each of the sessions, participants were organized into small groups in which each group was led through a series of questions to think about what skills students will need in order to be prepared for college and a career. Each group then came up with a set of skills that they felt students need in order to be prepared for college and a career, along with a brief description for each skill identified.

Each of the skills identified by each of the groups along with their description were then compared across sessions. When a skill was mentioned in two separate instances (either in the name of the skill or within the description of the skill) it was placed within a 1” circle with 8 point font. Each time that skill was mentioned again in a separate instance, the circle, color, and font for that circle changed by a predetermined amount (see the example below). As a result, the larger the circle and font and the darker the color for a particular skill, the more it was mentioned through each of the skill sets that were developed. In addition, if skills were mentioned together with other skills (e.g. – critical thinking and problem-solving) they were coded with the same color to show that they were related.

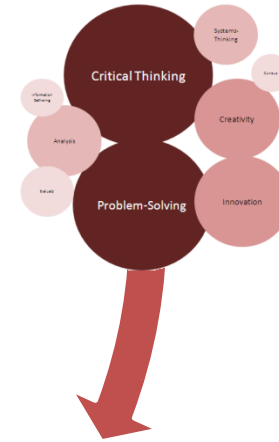
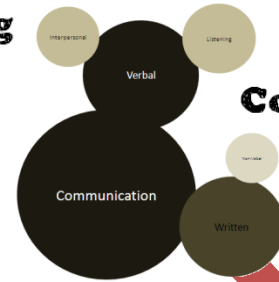


The Skill-Set

Collaboration & Global Thinking

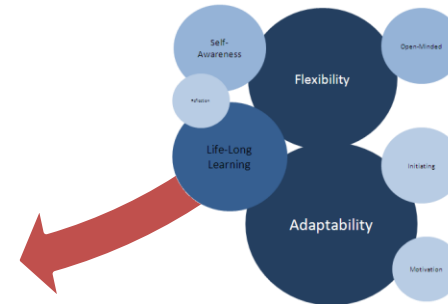


Communication

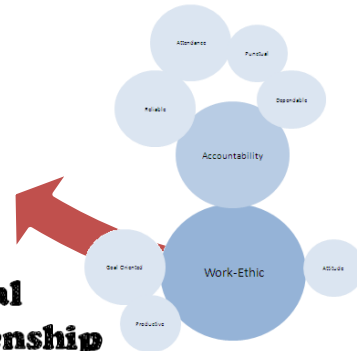


Critical Thinking & Problem-Solving

Flexibility & Adaptability



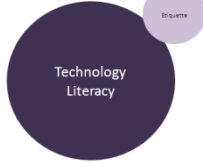
Ethical Citizenship



Personal Accountability



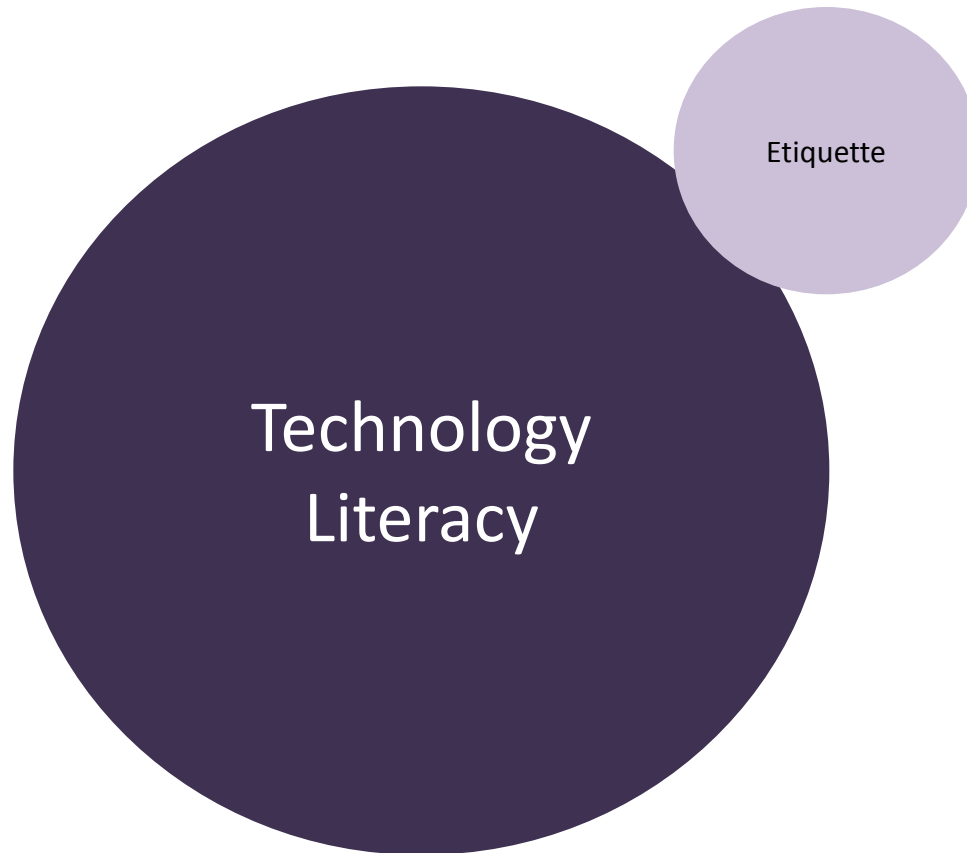
Technology Literacy



There were 7 overarching skills that were identified through this process: 1) Technology Literacy, 2) Collaboration & Global Thinking, 3) Communication, 4) Critical Thinking & Problem Solving, 5) Flexibility & Adaptability, 6) Ethical Citizenship, and 7) Personal Accountability (see the following pages for a description of each). While certain skills within this set may be more prevalent or important at times, they are not meant to be viewed in isolation from one another. For instance, the ability to communicate effectively often involves a strong foundation in technology literacy and the ability to effectively collaborate and work with others.

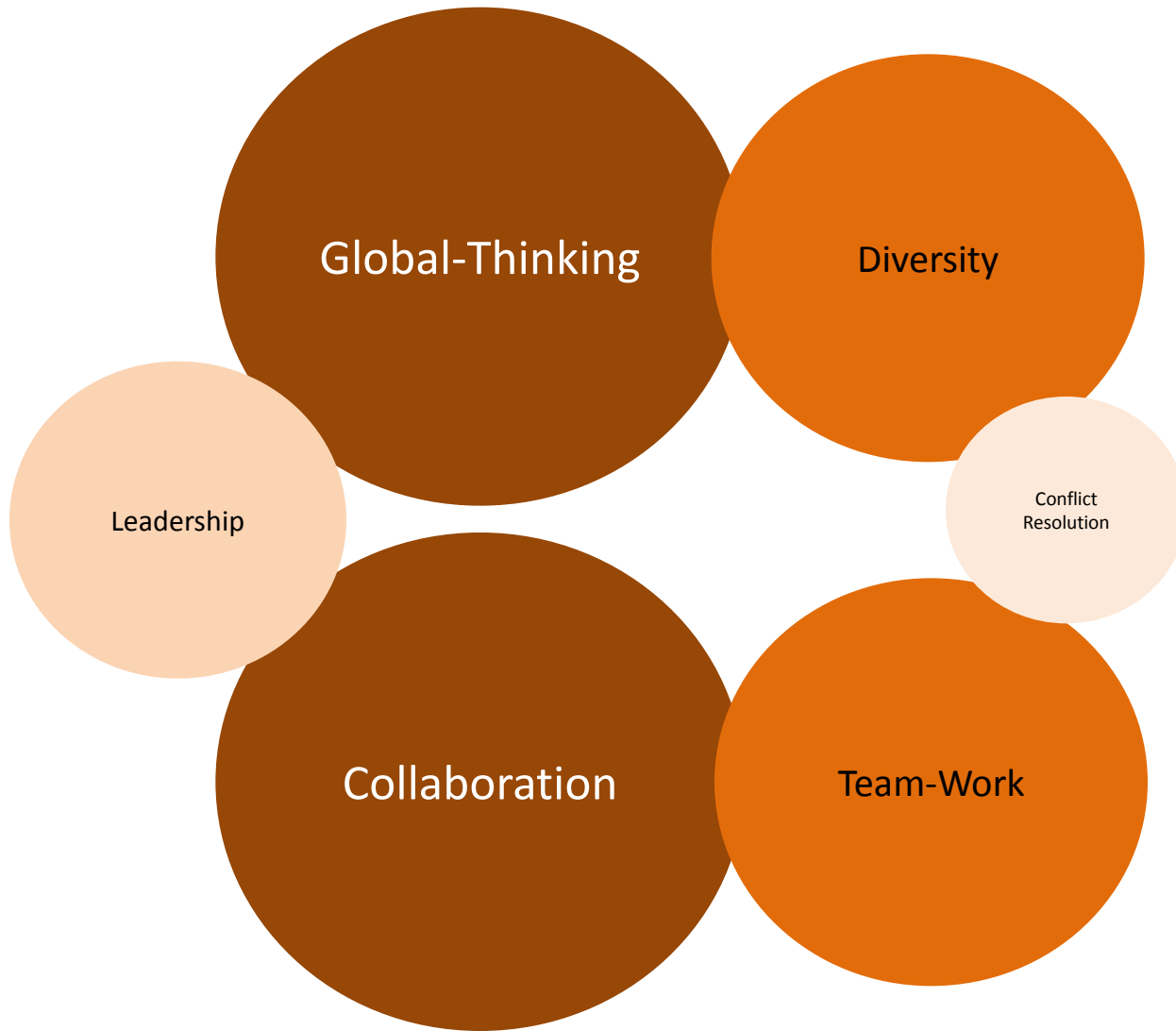


Technology Literacy



def. – The ability to understand, use, and adapt to new technology concepts, systems and operations in an innovative, ethical, responsible and professional manner.

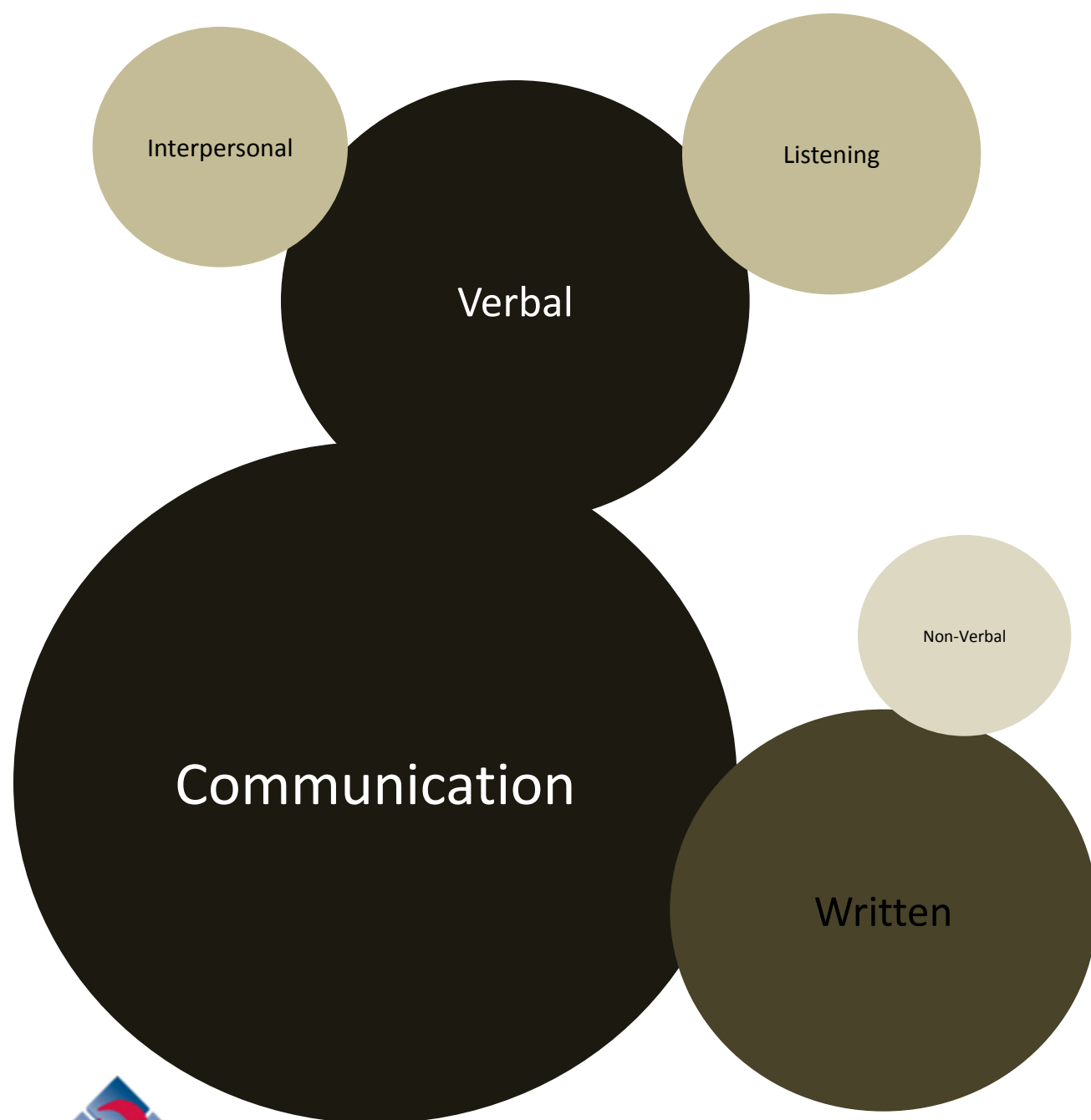




Collaboration & Global Thinking

def. – The ability to effectively collaborate and work as a member of a diverse team in order to achieve a common goal. This involves knowing 1) how and when to demonstrate leadership within the team (e.g. – knowing your role on a team), 2) how to think globally (e.g. – both “broadly” and “taking a world prospective”) about an issue/problem, and 3) how to effectively resolve conflict.





Communication

def. – The ability to effectively communicate a message or an idea to someone else through verbal and non-verbal means. Included within this is the ability to know how and when to listen to others' communication and to use communication to build interpersonal relationships with others.



Critical Thinking

Systems-
Thinking

Curious

Information
Gathering

Analysis

Creativity

Evaluate

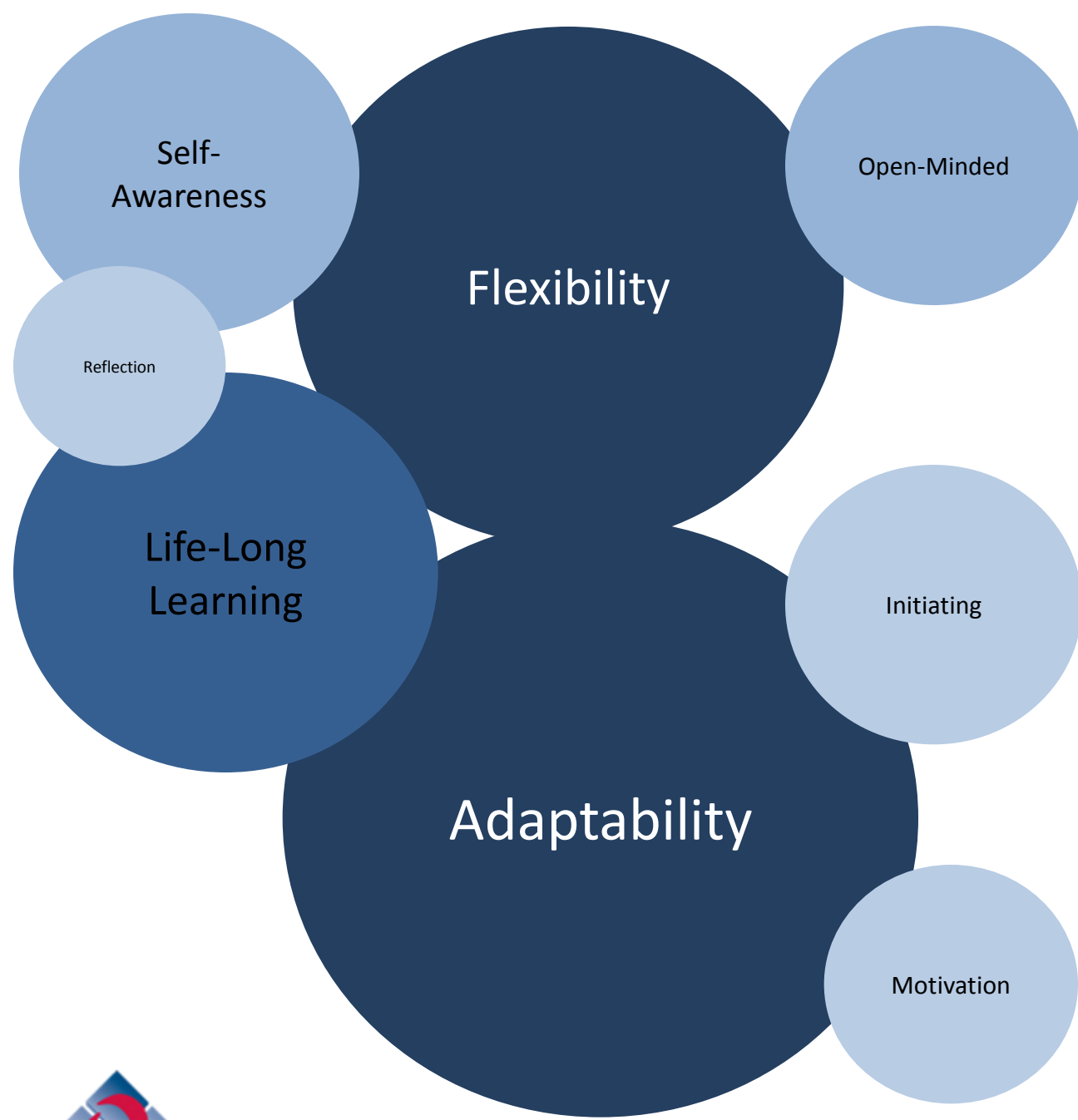
Problem-Solving

Innovation

Critical Thinking & Problem-Solving

def. – The courage and curiosity to generate innovative and creative solutions to issues of interest through the gathering, analysis and evaluation of relevant information. This includes thinking through 1) how possible solutions fit into and affect a larger system, 2) the validity of information and claims that others present, and 3) the potential consequences of proposed solutions.





Flexibility & Adaptability

def. – The ability and self-motivation to continuously learn through-out one’s lifetime in order to respond to and cope with changes within society and the world at large. Included within this is 1) being aware of and developing one’s own core values, 2) being open-minded to different viewpoints and ways of doing things and 3) self-reflection.





Ethical Citizenship

def. – The ability to act in a caring and principled manner (e.g. - with integrity, honesty, respect, and discernment) in order to promote the common-good of one’s community. Included within this is finding balance between attending to one’s own needs (e.g. – spiritual, health, work, etc.) and the needs of others (e.g. – showing empathy and generosity).





Personal Accountability

def. – The ability to productively work toward a goal with a positive attitude. Included within this is being reliable and dependable (e.g. – being present and punctual) and holding oneself and others accountable for their work.

