

NEW SHORHEAM SCHOOL DISTRICT
BLOCK ISLAND SCHOOL

The philosophy of the New Shoreham School Department is based on the premise that the most valuable resource of the Town of New Shoreham is its children. It is our belief that schools benefit not only children and their parents, but all of society, by helping to assure that each individual is capable of contributing to the overall good of humankind. The school experience should be a catalyst to help students clarify their own goals and values, to acquire healthy attitudes toward success and failure, to understand the function of experimentation in learning, and to gain sufficient confidence to take appropriate risks in order to achieve. Fundamental to the educational process is the conviction that students learn differently from one another and each must be regarded as an individual worthy of our interest, respect, and best efforts.

In order to implement this philosophy, the following goals have been established.

The New Shoreham School Department will:

1. Provide learning experiences designed to maximize individual potential, to develop a positive attitude to learning, and to promote self-esteem regardless of academic ability.
2. Provide educational program activities in a school climate which will counteract prejudice and foster in each student an understanding and respect for the diversity of the cultures of the community, nation, and the world.
3. Provide the opportunity for all students to acquire the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening, as well as computational and analytical skills.
4. Provide the opportunity for all students to assess their impact on the environment and natural resources, define their roles as producers and consumers, and understand local, national and world economics.
5. Provide experiences designed to encourage all students to become capable of thinking critically, making sound judgements, and to become effective members of a democratic society who exercise the rights and assume the responsibilities of American citizenship.
6. Provide a program of enriching experiences to aid students in skill development and appreciation of art, music, and drama.
7. Provide students with instruction in health and physical education, both within the curriculum and extracurricular, in order to provide knowledge of sound health habits, encourage development of gross motor skills, promote teamwork, and provide an awareness of the value of being physically fit.

8. Provide guidance and counseling to students in exploring various career options and in choosing courses of instruction that support the choices they have made.
9. Select and retain an informed, well trained professional faculty and support staff who are aware of students' needs and problems and who are themselves motivated toward continuing professional growth.
10. Maintain a continuing dialogue between community, home, and school to better address the needs of a changing world, to develop those personal characteristics which will lead to a better individual and community life for all of the town's citizens, and to gain a greater understanding of how to live in an ethical manner with others in society.

Policy Adopted: June 19, 2000
New Shoreham School District, Block Island School