

Kyrene Think Tank

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Group 1 Feedback

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Question 1: What skills do our future graduates need?

- Sensitivity to assist kids with transitions – into workforce – job to job (7 careers)
- Jobs don't even exist today – creative thinkers, problem-solving, analytic thinking
- Human relation skills – cultural competence, global sense/perspective
- Teach thinking skills – accept multiple perspectives – sort through politics
- Basic computation – basic comprehension are given (Read, Write, Math)
- Think P-20 – strong communication skills – Big picture thinking
- Skills to master next educational level
- Flexibility – taught flexibility – teaming help with change – adaptability
- Desire for knowledge – “get the joy”, keep on knowing more things – attitude
- Ability to get along with others
- Career exposure along the way – guest speakers
- Hands on experiences to apply their knowledge
- Habit to continue to learn – continuous learning
- Language (global) skills (Central Europe 4 languages)
- Sense of a fragile system – need to grow desire of success and excellence shared community responsibility – rigorous curriculum to compete – U.S. Dept. of Labor Skills – Mastery
- Human ethics
 - Not just winning at all costs
 - Respectful dialogue
- Physical health and nutrition
- Identify and build on child's competence – build on strengths to grow confidence
- Cannot afford the luxury of segregation of students by ability – need core skills workforce development – has to address skills in all disciplines
 - Bring training together with skills
 - Universal skills
- Art, Literature, Music education, etc., well-rounded is important
- Know strengths – teach them to self-assess, understand their passion

Question 2: How can Kyrene ensure that our students will have these skills?

- Make sure students are working to or above their potential
- Differentiated instruction
- Small classes to know kids
- Know st. learning style
- Children accepted into classroom culture
- More diversity of staff
- Engage families in the role of education – more family partnerships
- Engage families outside of school day – evening opportunities for involvement
 - Engage in more diverse ways – like meeting minutes on Kyrene.org
 - Podcasts – way to give feedback
- Help parents with skills to help kids at home

- Strengthen teacher skills to respond to family needs
 - Use on-line resources
- Understand your teacher needs and build on those
- Bring community volunteers into classroom to strengthen teacher skills
- Ask students
 - Why?
 - Stop, listen and ask them Why?
 - Allows them to walk through their thinking process
- Parent communication – use multiple media website, newspaper and its relevance
- Teach critical thinking skills in M.S. – integrate curriculum – Literature, History, Music – think and synthesize materials
- More time in schools
- More time to dialogue with community – develop a professional learning community
- Change calendar
- All of these things require more funding

Question 3: List examples of community partnerships that would benefit Kyrene students.

- Use cultural examples – Hannah Montana – business – do the math – examples with context
- Intel, Toyota – to strengthen teacher skills – AZ Science Center – underused resource
- Creative uses for parents past 4th grade – use them to help teach kids – higher and lower kids – principals network to engage parents in creative ways
- Kyrene Foundation – continued development
- 3 Foundations work together to increase influence
- Utilize H.S. students to work with younger kids – mentoring programs
- More conversations with universities on student needs
- Freeing up principals – growing community partnerships – it's important – help them embrace it
- Help parents support partnerships – less soccer – more support experiences related to education – a societal shift must occur.
- Need more administrative/ counseling staff so that these creative things can happen
- More things like Junior Achievement – “Biz Town”