



## Shepherd Graduate Profile Work



Academic success and the lifelong success of our students at Shepherd Schools is our top priority. Our students' academic success is of utmost importance to our district, however, creating lifelong learners is developed deep within our mission. A student's ability to learn academically is enhanced when they have life skills taught to them throughout the process. Being able to adapt, communicate, and collaborate are a few of those skills that we feel a graduate should have as they leave Shepherd.

Listed below are the most common characteristics and skills graduates could work on while attending high school. We held various group meetings and conducted surveys to determine which of these characteristics and skills were the most important to our community. These are the skills we want our graduates to have as they leave Shepherd Public Schools. Work towards these skills will take place from fourth grade throughout high school.

**Digital literacy/information literacy:** Adapt, create, consume, and connect in productive, responsible ways to use technology in social, academic, and professional settings.

**Conflict communication:** Speaks about thoughts and ideas effectively using oral, written, and nonverbal communication skills in many forms and contexts.

**Self-management/responsibility/self-efficacy:** Practices responsible decision-making and considers the impact on others. Creates, monitors, and reflects upon ambitious and realistic goals.

**Resilience/adaptability:** Sets personal goals, apply best efforts to achieve them, and persevere when faced with challenges and setbacks. Works well in a climate of uncertainty and changing priorities.

**Enthusiasm:** Excited to learn, interested in what's new in the world. Seizes opportunities to grow, explore, and lead by combining hard work and determination with purpose and critical thinking.

**Community-mindedness/global citizen:** Values and embraces diverse cultures and unique perspectives through mutual respect, open dialogue, and civic responsibility. Understands own biases and reflects on them regularly.

**Collaborative/works well in a team:** Takes responsibility for self and team through shared, focused leadership. By joining forces with others, makes room for a diverse range of voices, skills, and views.

**Systems thinking/critical thinking:** examines and challenges assumptions, makes decisions based on evidence, and reasons effectively to make logical judgments and explanations.

**Problem-solving:** Generates original ideas, solutions, and products in imaginative ways. Extracts learning from failure to move ideas forward.

**Timeliness/Dependability:** Reliably shows up to commitments in a timely manner and completes tasks by the expected timeline.

## Staff, Student and Community Input

Various meetings were held concerning work on our Graduate Profile. Each group brought a different insight as to what characteristics were most important to them. We will take the feedback from each group and create our list of the top 5-7 attributes we believe each student should have once they graduate and leave Shepherd to enter their adult world.

- Career, Technical, Education (CTE) committee was held in September of 2023
  - In attendance: board members, administrators, teachers, industry Reps, and community members.
  - This group works closely with students with on-the-job placements and experiences. This group felt for students who would be entering the workforce it was important for them to have almost all these characteristics and skills. The skills they felt were the most important and wanted to move forward in our graduate profile work were:
    - ➡ **Conflict communication:** Speaks about thoughts and ideas effectively using oral, written, and nonverbal communication skills in many forms and contexts.
    - ➡ **Problem-solving:** Generates original ideas, solutions, and products in imaginative ways. Extracts learning from failure to move ideas forward.
    - ➡ **Critical thinking:** examines and challenges assumptions, makes decisions based on evidence, and reasons effectively to make logical judgments and explanations.
    - ➡ **Timeliness/Dependability:** Reliably shows up to commitments in a timely manner and completes tasks by the expected timeline.
  
- Staff and Student Surveys
  - Staff and students in grades 4<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> were surveyed and asked which set of skills and characteristics were the most important to them for a Shepherd graduate to have upon graduation.
  - The skills they felt were the most important and wanted to move forward in our graduate profile work were:
    - ➡ **Self-management/responsibility/self-efficacy:** Practices responsible decision-making and considers the impact on others. Creates, monitors, and reflects upon ambitious and realistic goals.
    - ➡ **Problem-solving:** Generates original ideas, solutions, and products in imaginative ways. Extracts learning from failure to move ideas forward.
    - ➡ **Timeliness/Dependability:** Reliably shows up to commitments in a timely manner and completes tasks by the expected timeline.

- Board Meeting and Community Input
  - In attendance: board members, administrators, coaches, parents, and community members.
  - This group was asked to contribute to the graduate profile work during a public meeting. They came from all different aspects of the community and shared their thoughts and ideas on which characteristics and skills were most important for a Shepherd graduate to have upon completion of our K-12 system.

➡ **Conflict communication:** Speaks about thoughts and ideas effectively using oral, written, and nonverbal communication skills in many forms and contexts.

➡ **Enthusiasm:** Excited to learn, interested in what's new in the world. Seizes opportunities to grow, explore, and lead by combining hard work and determination with purpose and critical thinking.

➡ **Community-mindedness/global citizen:** Values and embraces diverse cultures and unique perspectives through mutual respect, open dialogue, and civic responsibility. Understands own biases and reflects on them regularly.

### Our top 7 attributes

Conflict communication

Problem-solving

Critical thinking

Timeliness/Dependability

Self-management/responsibility/self-efficacy

Enthusiasm

Community-mindedness/global citizen

### Next Steps:

We have a staff member who previously came to us with a graphic arts background. She is going to work with a few Middle School and High School art students to create our graduate profile drafts. We will then take these various works of art and graphic designs to our staff, students, board, and community for a final choice.

Once our final graphic design of the 5-7 attributes our Shepherd graduates will have upon graduation is complete, the final visual will be printed and displayed in each classroom and office area of each of our three schools.

Our timeline to have this accomplished and visuals hung in our buildings is by August of 2024.