



Core Competency Information & Conversation Starters for Families




The Core Competencies overarch all aspects of the curriculum: the Big Ideas, Curricular Competencies, and Content. They are embedded in much of the learning that students do. Teachers, administrators, and support staff are all working hard to ensure that students are mindful of their growth in relation to the Core Competencies through self-reflection activities.


In order to help families have conversations with their child(ren) about the Core Competencies, we have provided some information about the competencies and a small selection of questions that you may use with your child(ren). Please keep in mind that the Core Competencies are about students' self-reflections of what they CAN DO, and are not based on grades, percents, or performance scales.

 **Communication** - The communication competency encompasses the set of abilities that students use to impart and exchange information, experiences and ideas, to explore the world around them, and to understand and effectively engage in the use of digital media.


 **Thinking** - The thinking competency encompasses the knowledge, skills and processes we associate with intellectual development. It is through their competency as thinkers that students take subject-specific concepts and content and transform them into a new understanding. Thinking competence includes specific thinking skills as well as habits of mind, and metacognitive awareness.

 **Personal and Social** - Personal and social competency is the set of abilities that relate to students' identity in the world, both as individuals and as members of their community and society. Personal and social competency encompasses the abilities students need to thrive as individuals, to understand and care about themselves and others, and to find and achieve their purposes in the world.


When asking your child(ren) one of the following questions, you can start with; "At school ..."

 **Communication:**


- How did you show that you were listening thoughtfully? In what ways do you think your ability to speak with others has developed this year?

 **Critical Thinking:**


- What strategies did you use to decide whether to believe something you read on a social media site? How did you develop these strategies? What advice would you give a younger student about figuring out what is true?

 **Creative Thinking:**


- What helps you get new ideas? Tell me about a time when you felt really good about a new idea you had.

 **Social Responsibility:**

- How did you use words and actions to encourage other students who might have felt a bit sad or discouraged?

 **Positive and Personal Cultural Identity:**

- What are your strengths as a learner?

 **Personal Awareness and Responsibility:**

- Tell me about one of your learning goals for next year. How did you come to choose that goal? Tell me about something you are doing to help you work on that goal.