



Avila
College

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LEARNING AND TEACHING CHARTER

RATIONALE:

In embracing this Learning and Teaching Charter, we, the community of Avila College, commit to providing a comprehensive and balanced curriculum, which aims to:

- *Foster a climate where learning is valued*
- *Develop critical thinking*
- *Encourage imaginative and creative talents*
- *Promote life long learning skills*
- *Enable students to become active and responsible members of society*
(Avila College Vision Statement 2013)

The purpose of this charter is to outline the *contemporary learning* principles and strategies that underpin the education of each student at Avila College.

DEFINITION:

Contemporary learning is personalized, rigorous and responsive to the needs of the students and to the world in which they live.

Contemporary learning aims to empower students with the knowledge, skills and capacity to respond creatively to the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

Contemporary learning uses digital and emerging technologies to assist students to make connections beyond the school, engaging with diverse perspectives and collaborative learning opportunities to develop deep understandings of themselves, others and the world.

POLICY STATEMENT:

Principles of Contemporary Learning and Teaching

Learners are supported, enabled and engaged in the contemporary world through powerful teaching that includes:

- Rigorous, relevant and personalised learning opportunities
- Rich assessment for, of and as learning that builds capacity for future learning
- Development of core knowledge, skills and understanding through strategic opportunities for exploring, experimenting and creating new knowledge
- Shared intellectual control of content
- Intentional development of respectful relationships
- Recognition and valuing of diverse of views and approaches
- Awareness of the importance of the “bigger picture” or broader view
- Encouragement of an approach that questions and learns from others
- Development of an environment that supports and encourages risk taking
- Promotion of discussion that is exploratory, tentative and hypothetical
- High expectations that lead to excellence
- Regular and embedded use of digital and emerging technologies

Implementation

Students are supported in their learning through an expectation and modeling of the following learning and teaching behaviours.

CONTEMPORARY LEARNING BEHAVIOURS

- Planning and reflection
- Identification of need for increased knowledge, skills and understanding
- Creative application of knowledge, skills and understanding
- Critical thinking
- Clear communication in a range of contexts and media
- Development of self-regulating behavior, including persistence when challenges are encountered or mistakes occur
- Recognition and respect for others' needs, views and approaches
- Exploration of and appreciation for multiple perspectives through consideration of various religious, social, cultural, historical, political and ethical influences
- Regular collaboration with others, both within the classroom and beyond, including local and global networks
- Seeking new challenges and opportunities to extend own learning
- Respect for the physical, virtual and emotional learning environment

CONTEMPORARY TEACHING BEHAVIOURS

- Flexible and fair approach
- Use of a broad range of creative and innovative strategies for engaging learners
- Practice of the skills of inquiry such as hypothesizing and experimenting
- Metacognitive modeling through explaining the how, why and relevance of learning activities
- Effective use of multi-modal approaches
- Celebration of excellence and achievement
- Explicit scaffolding that supports the learning for each student
- Close monitoring of student learning through timely and specific feedback that supports and encourages future learning
- Development of culturally relevant and value literate practices
- Well planned and regularly reviewed strategies for teaching
- Inquiry focused approach
- Collaboration with colleagues in planning, sharing and reflecting
- Connection to professional networks and to the broader College community
- Commitment to own life-long learning

COMMUNICATION PLAN

This charter has been developed by the Curriculum Committee and through consultation with staff. It is published in the Staff Handbook and available to the public from the Learning and Innovation page of the Avila College Website.

Review: Every three years

Next Review Due: 2017