

Glen Oaks School and Finding our Why

In Spring of 2020, Glen Oaks School went on a "Finding our Why" journey. We utilized Simon Sinek's work to move us forward in finding our why. We spent our monthly staff meetings throughout the semester finding our personal why, our team's why, and the why of our organization, Glen Oaks School. We discussed what we care about, who we are, our strengths, where we add the greatest value, and our personal core values. We then came together as an organization to create a simple, clear, and meaningful why statement. The statement is below:

To connect through support and collaboration so that each individual gains confidence and finds their own voice and value in our community on their journey of personal growth.

After we created our "Glen Oaks Why," we revisited the School District 117 Mission and Core Values, as they were created before many of us joined the school district. We determined that we were in full alignment with the School District 117 Mission and Core Values. Our entire school community values students, their learning, and their social-emotional well-being. Glen Oaks School embodies visual leadership and is always looking for ways to better improve learning for our students. Additionally, we have a strong culture of continuous improvement, have solid systems in place, and always use data to guide all decisions. We find what is working and continue to improve upon that. We are also hungry for results because we want to ensure that our students are learning.

Since this work in 2020, we have revisited our Glen Oaks Why statement and the District's Mission and Core Values every year to determine if anything needs to be adjusted to better fit who we are as an organization. We also revisit our Why, Mission, and Values any time throughout the year that we need a reminder of who we are and why we are here. We live and breathe by our Why and our Core Values.

See below for our District 117 Mission and Core Values:

MISSION STATEMENT

Through a dedicated commitment from students, parents, staff and the entire community, the mission of North Palos School District 117 is to create a positive, caring, learning environment, which fosters excellence and active student participation and to ensure that every student will realize his/her full potential as a socially responsible lifelong learner.

CORE VALUES

Visionary Leadership

Search for Possibilities

Learning Centered Education

Developing Professional Learning Communities

Organizational and Personal Learning

Creates a Culture of Continuous Improvement

Managing for Innovation

Model and Monitor what is Important

Systems Perspective

Find Ways Around Obstacles

Management by Fact

Find what is Working

Focus on the Future

Believe that Solutions Exist

Public Responsibility and Citizenship

Be the Best for the World

Agility

Realize that Change is a Possibility

Focus on Results and Creating Value

Broaden Your Definition of Winning