

Guiding Principles for Good Teaching

Upland believes that good teaching should:

- 1. Be child-centered and developmentally appropriate.*
Faculty recognize the need to provide work that is challenging but not overwhelming. Therefore, they are careful to balance suitable academic demands with emotional support. In addition, teachers have the flexibility to take advantage of “teachable moments,” incorporating children’s ideas and interests into the curriculum.
- 2. Be mindful of various learning styles and embrace technologies to address them.*
Because not all students learn in the same manner, teachers provide multi-modal experiences including kinetic, auditory, visual, and other approaches.
- 3. Encourage creativity, open-mindedness to new ideas, and critical thinking.*
All three types of thinking are necessary to thrive in the 21st century global environment.
- 4. Maintain a balance between process and content.*
Learning how to learn is as important as the learning of certain content.
- 5. Emphasize rich, full communication.*
The most sophisticated and measurable thinking occurs when learners synthesize disparate information into a unified argument, explanation, plan, or presentation. Gardener's model of multiple intelligences serves as a guide in creating various types of communicative experiences.
- 6. Be cooperative in nature.*
Students need to develop social skills in order to work together to discover multiple solutions to problems in all disciplines. Teachers recognize that emerging technologies can enhance this collaboration.
- 7. Promote risk-taking in order to develop independent learners.*
Children need to feel safe in taking risks intellectually, emotionally and physically. In order to become independent learners, they must feel confident enough to stretch to meet goals and to try new things.
- 8. Be problem/project based.*
Students learn best when they apply skills and concepts to real problem solving situations, including hands-on activities, in all disciplines. Appropriate use of technology can facilitate this type of learning.
- 9. Take advantage of cross-disciplinary connections.*
Meaning is developed and learning strengthened when instruction is integrated across content areas.
- 10. Recognize the continuity of learning.*
All learning can be viewed as a valuable experience in itself as well as a preparation for the next step.