

democracy it is!

Philosophical Statements

We are committed to creating curricular materials that enable teachers to grapple with the core ideas, concepts, and principles of democracy in Wisconsin and the nation.

This curriculum will include the rights and responsibilities of students living within a democratic republic.

Our methodological, procedural work will not overshadow our questioning of what knowledge and whose knowledge is to be taught.

While the advisory committee will create philosophical statements and design, evaluate, and revise educational objectives and learning experiences that align with the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards, it will maintain an important and necessary balance between pedagogy and content, between “how” and “what.”

Remember the political sensitivity of our work.

We agree that there will be disagreements within the committee over both the content and the methods discussed, selected and processed. However, as controversies arise, we agree to work collaboratively for the good of the group, the good of the project, and the good of our potential students, and to be aware that at all times we are modeling the participatory democratic process at work.

Learning comes from the heart as well as from the mind.

As individuals composing this advisory group, we will open ourselves to the joy and compassion of learning as we go about our work. We will continue to participate in the construction of our identity as a committee and to assign meaning to our efforts. To the extent that intensification permits, we will reflect individually on our work between meetings, and we will share and employ these reflections to nurture our individual and collective emotional intelligence.

Critical reflection can lead to new thinking, feeling, and acting.

As we learn from our mistakes, both those we own personally and those made by the committee, we will patch together our discoveries and strive toward the appropriate actions with which to transform both ourselves and our work. We commit to conscious learning, step by step, along the way.