“Don’t ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.” – Howard Thurman

Vision

Instilling purpose, passion, and perseverance through creativity, innovation, and authentic relationships.

Mission

We provide Williamson County students a unique choice for their high school education that unleashes and channels their creativity to seek solutions to authentic problems in a smaller, more intimate, and personalized learning community.

Beliefs

- We believe that some students have unique social, emotional, or academic characteristics that require a smaller, more intimate setting in order to thrive in high school and reach their creative potential. Therefore, we use an elaborate application and interview process to proactively identify these students, ideally before or early in their high school experience.

- We believe students must learn the essential 21st century skills of creativity/innovation, critical thinking, communication and collaboration within the context of the core curriculum. Therefore, we deliberately embed opportunities for students to develop these skills within each class and integrate interdisciplinary, real-world project-based learning into our instructional day.

- We believe that “creativity” can be simply defined as “the process of having original ideas that have value”. Therefore, we operate with the assumption
that everyone has the capacity to be creative, and that creativity can be identified, strengthened, and focused over time through their experiences.

- We believe “innovation” means translating those original ideas into services or products that benefit others. Therefore, our students are given regular opportunities to innovate solutions and create products that benefit and serve the broader community. In other words, our students develop intrinsic value for the work they do because it has extrinsic value outside of school.

- We believe that innovation thrives within a safe, accepting culture that values collaboration, risk taking, and perseverance over competition, compliance, and individual achievement. Therefore, everything we do from our coffee houses and advisory time to our assessment and grading philosophies are designed to cultivate academic, social, and emotional growth and resilience.

- We believe students naturally find focus and direction for their lives when they are given the creative freedom and scaffolding to progress from play to passion to purpose. Therefore, our students choose an elective academy in Apps (coding/web design/gaming), Art (a hybrid of fine art and digital design), or Audio (audio recording and production) all intended to launch students on 21st century career pathways.

- We believe that once students discover their purpose, we should provide them with specialized educational and training opportunities that will facilitate their transition after graduation to the road to a successful and fulfilling career. Therefore, we have established educational partnerships with the Tennessee College of Applied Technology and other industries to further students’ educational opportunities beyond the school day.

- We believe the creative economy values portfolio over pedigree. Therefore, all students will graduate with a digital portfolio showcasing their original work and talents and will be given the opportunity for real-world exploration within their elective academy.

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