



ENTHEOS EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING



S T A T E M E N T
O F V I S I O N
& P U R P O S E

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OVERVIEW

Entheos was born out of a desire for education that would not only include academics, but also fundamental core values; the foremost being the three pillars of Excellence, Service, and Leadership creating the foundation for which the other values can be upheld effectively.

*Individuality	*Adventure	*Integrity
*Respect	*Family	*Enthusiasm
*Excellence	*Patriotism	*Leadership
	*Service	

These values are integrated throughout every aspect of the school. This document summarizes Entheos' vision and how it will be implemented. It serves to create a unified community of learners. Policies, procedures, and protocols may change, but the core values intended for Entheos by its founders must remain constant.

These values, therefore, are non-negotiable. Staff members that join the Entheos team must be willing to create and live within a culture that completely embraces this vision; everything will be measured against it. Students and families must realize that by choosing Entheos, they choose this vision.

Critical excerpts from the Entheos Charter have also been included in this document. The Entheos Charter has been approved by the Utah State Board of Education, and is the basis as to why Entheos exists. This document along with the Entheos Charter, then, becomes the "constitution" of the school and the standard for all programs, policies and rules.

Because these values define and shape the school, this document should be distributed to board, staff, students, families, and any stakeholders of the organization. It should be read, pondered, and understood as a condition of enrollment and employment.

"When we create a strong sense of community in our classroom we enhance learning... Children must learn about the world, but they must also learn how to be in the world. We can and must teach both academics and something much bigger, how to be human. In fact... each type of learning can actually enhance the other. When we pay attention to the culture of community in our classrooms, we are not taking time from academics; we are building a foundation and a purpose for academics."

Kathy Greeley – Why Fly That Way

!

The mission of Entheos is to **INSPIRE** the rising generation to reach the heights of their potential, **IGNITE** their curiosity to venture into challenging new learning experiences, and **EMPOWER** them to be leaders through service who are committed to family and community.

Then...they can **ACHIEVE** their goals and dreams!

"We believe students and teachers should be challenged, and that they will naturally rise to the high standards expected of them."

EXCELLENCE



"I believe that work of excellence is transformational. Once a student sees that he or she is capable of excellence, that student is never quite the same. There is a new self-image, a new notion of possibility. There is an appetite for excellence. After students have had a taste of excellence, they're never quite satisfied with less; they're always hungry."

Ron Berger - An Ethic of Excellence

Striving for excellence is a way of life at Entheos. Students present to parents and other audiences their "personal best" work. Worksheets for the sake of busy work or quick assignments for a grade simply do not exist. Teachers draw students outside of their comfort zone, helping them develop courage to overcome their fears and discover they can do more than they think they can. A culture of craftsmanship, perseverance, and significant achievement is pervasive throughout the school.

Students at Entheos learn to give and receive feedback on their work in an atmosphere that is friendly and constructive. "Revise, revise, revise" is the mantra at Entheos. Ongoing assessment is woven throughout expeditions, pushing students to higher levels of performance in pursuit of excellent work. *Students are not penalized for trying again.* Students take personal responsibility for their learning, therefore assessment is primarily "for" learning, not just "of" learning.

What Excellence Looks Like:

We strive for our personal best. Self-esteem comes from accomplishments not compliments.

We learn from our failures and persevere through difficult challenges.

We display excellent work in portfolios, often showing the progression from draft to final product.

We produce work that is authentic, purpose-driven, and responds to real issues. Celebrations of Learning are held regularly to share the excellent work done at Entheos with our community.

Teachers design exceptional and well-planned expeditions centered on compelling topics and state core learning targets.

Students know the learning targets, have clear models of expected performance, and multiple opportunities to assess individual progress toward the expected level of performance.

Administration supports our teachers in being leaders in their field and models of best practices. We maintain a high standard of professional development and personal growth.

We exhibit excellence at every level of the school: governing board, administration, staff, students, and parent crews. Beyond academics, we strive for excellence in character, citizenship, service, and leadership.

SERVICE

“We believe service is vital in the development of good leaders. We make service within the classroom and the community an integral part of our curriculum.”



You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand.

Woodrow Wilson

Students who participate in service-learning activities excel academically. A national study of Learn and Serve America Programs reveals that “effective service-learning programs improve academic grades, increase attendance in school and develop personal and social responsibility.” When children understand that their service is real and that it makes a difference for someone they want to achieve at their highest level.

Service learning is intentional at Entheos. We take seriously the responsibility of being crew, not passengers, adhering strongly to the belief that “if it is to be, it is truly up to me.”

At Entheos, students and staff are strengthened by acts of service to others. Students are taught how to reach outside of themselves, to look at their neighbor and community for opportunities to make things better.

Individual and group service projects are part of the curriculum. Each grade participates in at least one age-appropriate community service project per year, with the ideal being community service incorporated into each expedition. Older students take charge of their service-learning by developing their own action plans and performing their own individual service projects. National and community service organizations are used to help guide us in our efforts.

What Service Looks Like:

We recognize our connection to the community as we learn how to identify needs and work with community members.

Individual and group service projects are part of the curriculum, with a year of service for older grades as a rite of passage.

We strive to develop compassion for others.

Teachers and students educate themselves on the needs of the surrounding community and plan service learning projects to address these needs.

We are eager for opportunities to serve, including cleaning the school, opening doors, picking up dropped items, putting up chairs, and particularly anonymous acts of kindness.

A general feeling of gratitude and unselfishness prevails. Phrases like "Thank you," and "How can I help you?" are heard often.

Tasks and assignments that need to be done are volunteered for willingly by all in the school community, including Parents, Board, Staff and Students.

I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found a way to serve.

Albert Schweitzer



LEADERSHIP

"We believe that through the teaching of sound leadership principles, students will be empowered to take the initiative in shaping their world."

Leadership is born from habits of service and excellence. At Entheos, students learn from the greatest and most noble leaders throughout history. In addition, great effort is focused on providing students with leadership opportunities at the school where they learn to think, direct, delegate, articulate, plan, and execute.

Entheos students learn how to become leaders now by making a difference in both their school and throughout their community.

What Leadership Looks Like:

We have frequent public speaking opportunities and present materials to authentic audiences.

We regularly set goals and track progress.

Students plan, practice and direct student-led parent conferences.

We practice critical thinking, organization skills, practical small group leadership, and interpersonal communication.

We learn to work as members of a "crew". Together we draw on the strengths of the whole class, with students mentoring other students.

All learn to be good followers. To be a good leader requires that one also be a good follower.

Student government resembles a representative form of government, including caucuses, town meetings, and elections. Students learn how to bring about change by taking part in small-scale school improvement.

Students are heads of committees and direct service work.

We exhibit true leadership ability by demonstrating etiquette and good manners, values, service, and patriotism. Then we can correctly assume our place in the world.

We frequently learn from expert leaders within our community.

We seize the opportunity to study passionate leaders in history and great speeches given in the past. Through living books, speech festivals, and other resources, students become very familiar with great leaders who have shaped their country and their world.

We frequently provide opportunities for quiet reflection; time for students to write in their journals, gather their thoughts, and reflect on what they have learned.



ENTHUSIASM

"We believe that learning is a choice. As we create the atmosphere and inspire the mind, students gain wisdom, understanding and a love for learning."

*"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."
William Yeats*

At Entheos, teachers create challenging learning experiences that are meant to engage and stretch students. Special effort is given to identifying compelling topics and guiding questions that create a "need to know" in each individual. Learning calls for intellectual inquiry, exploration, and community service. On a given day, exploration may take students outside the school building to do environmental research, conduct interviews in local businesses, or carry out other fieldwork assignments. In all of this, there is opportunity for students to find and develop areas of personal interest. Our teacher's help students discover they can do more than they think they can, thus generating healthy and productive enthusiasm.

What Enthusiasm Looks Like:

We are actively engaged in each classroom. No one is falling between the cracks.

We are excited to come to school.

Staff members are fully trained in the dynamics of experiential learning and are excited to develop engaging learning activities and are active learners themselves.

We are eager to share what we know with our crew, our school, and the community at large.

We learn how to apply principles learned to the world around us.

We strive to cultivate within each child a hunger for learning; then fill it.

We use living books and narration to inspire a love for literature.

A positive, upbeat vibe permeates the school. There is low absenteeism and no bullying.

Long blocks of time for expedition work, no rows of desks, and limited worksheets allow for student inquiry and creativity.

Rituals and traditions are in place to help foster enthusiasm, such as morning meetings involving all grades, crew time, and outdoor adventure.

At any given time, when walking through the halls at
Entheos, you will hear it "buzzing like a beehive".

"Once you wake up a thought in a man, you can never put it to sleep again."

Zora Neale Hurston

RESPECT

“We believe all people have value and deserve respect. Our students and staff show proper respect to others, property and self by appropriate communication, dress and actions.”



Education includes more than just academics. While the sciences, humanities, and arts are all important, Entheos believes in conforming to high standards of morality and virtue. Students and staff take great effort to live in accordance with a sense of right and wrong.

Students choose to be respectful because they trust the wisdom and example of parents and teachers who model proper respect. Chivalry, good manners and genuine kindness are alive and well at Entheos. We believe in civility.

"Sloppy language and sloppy ways go together. Those who are truly educated have learned more than the sciences, the humanities, law, engineering, and the arts. They carry with them a certain polish that marks them as loving the better qualities of life, the culture that adds luster to the mundane world of which they are a part, a patina that puts a quiet glow on what otherwise might be base metal"

Gordon B. Hinckley

What Respect Looks Like:

Mutual respect fosters a productive and rewarding environment for learning. There is high regard for policy, guidelines, and instructions.

We act as ambassadors for the school both within the school walls and most especially when out in the community. Visitors are escorted by students to the classroom and then introduced. All acknowledge and greet the visitor.

We take responsibility for actions. Behavior throughout the campus is orderly, safe, and considerate. Entheos is bully-free.

Students keep the school clean by practicing the "leave no trace" principles throughout the school facility. There is a sense of pride of ownership for our facility. The halls, bathrooms, and classrooms are kept neat and tidy with each individual doing their part.

We exercise emotional and physical self-restraint. Physical display of affection is not allowed.

We address visitors, adults, and authority figures with respect and by using appropriate titles (Mr./Mrs./Miss). Teachers may be referred to as Miss Jenna or Mrs. Smith, etc.

We are respectful when addressing or referring to school leaders, community leaders, or the leaders of our country either past or present (i.e. President Bush, not Bush or Mr. Bush).

We use positive and constructive language that is polite and caring.

We do not use vulgar or profane words on school property, at school activities, or in schoolwork.

We follow the dress code with exactness.

Administration implements a well-defined, school-wide discipline procedure.

Student work displayed in classrooms and hallways promotes the school's mission and values.

Staff members show respect through their choice of texts and entertainment. In movies, books, art, and other texts, teachers strive for an uplifting and inspiring tone. Weighty subjects that may be sensitive and deeply moving (i.e. Holocaust) are taught in a respectful manner. Not only do movie ratings matter, but content matters as well. Teachers are respectful of parent and children's personal beliefs, and allow parents the final say.

INTEGRITY

"We believe in honesty,
accountability, diligence and
loyalty."

"The first step to truly living a good and fearless life, is accepting responsibility for your actions. Accepting what part you had in any situation. Difficult, to say the least, but liberating."

Jann Arden

Integrity is at the core of every other Entheos value. Without integrity, the other values can never be fully realized.

At Entheos, we strive for honesty at every level. Complete honesty is expected from students, staff, parents, and other members of our school community. Each person does his or her best no matter what the task. Each person owns up to his or her mistakes and is constantly seeking for improvement. Students are encouraged to speak their mind, but in an optimistic, respectful way.

What Integrity Looks Like:

We are honest in what we do and say.

We take responsibility for our own actions and how they affect others.

Individuals are accountable for their own learning.

We give praise for demonstrating integrity in difficult situations, and are encouraged to always stand up for our beliefs.

We strictly follow policy created by legislation, administration, and the School Board. Due process will be followed to change any policy.

We model integrity by always going to the source. Spreading rumors, exaggerating weaknesses or speaking ill of someone to someone else is not acceptable.

We are open to learning because a feeling of trust abounds throughout classrooms and among students, staff, and parents.

"There is but one straight course, and that is to seek truth and pursue it steadily."

George Washington

PATRIOTISM

“We believe that love for country is developed at an early age and we encourage civic responsibility in the community. We teach and live the principles taught by the founding fathers of the United States of America.”

"The liberties of our country, the freedom of our civil Constitution, are worth defending at all hazards; and it is our duty to defend them against all attacks. We have received them as a fair inheritance from our worthy ancestors: they purchased them for us with toil and danger and expense of treasure and blood, and transmitted them to us with care and diligence. It will bring an everlasting mark of infamy on the present generation, enlightened as it is, if we should suffer them to be wrested from us by violence without a struggle, or to be cheated out of them by the artifices of false and designing men."

Samuel Adams

At Entheos, we firmly believe that living in America is one of the greatest privileges granted to us. A feeling of deep gratitude for our many liberties and those who have sacrificed to protect them is fostered within our students.

Students are taught that unity has made us what we are as a country and will keep us strong in the future.

We support and uphold the Constitution. Good citizenship is developed through commitment to uphold the law, on both a Federal and State level.

What Patriotism Looks Like:

We are loyal to the United States of America and proudly display our nation's flag properly and with respect. We begin each day with the Pledge of Allegiance.

We are proud of our American citizenship as well as our cultural heritage.

The names "George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson" are more recognizable than other historic/popular figures. We know the Founding Fathers and what they stood for.

We have at least one expedition every two years that strongly emphasizes our founding fathers, documents, and history. As we understand and appreciate the historical context of the founding of this great country, a culture of patriotism and gratitude is fostered.

Students participate in discussions centered on the issues of upcoming elections. They know the names of their representatives and how to contact them. Homework is given to the students to discuss these issues with their families and to write or email their representatives on various issues.

Students learn about the State and Local government and learn the process of law that affects their lives. Discussion and action at a school level on legislation occurs yearly.

We provide unbiased and equal representation to all sides of political issues being studied.

We ensure that patriotic holidays are observed and discussed and members of the military are honored for their service in preserving our rights.

The joint resolution on Freedom of Religious Expression in Public Schools is distributed to families and discussed in the classroom each year. Students learn that they are free to express their beliefs without fear of criticism.

*All might be free if they valued freedom, and defended it as they should.
Samuel Adams*

*"Let it [the Constitution] be taught in schools, seminaries and in colleges; let it be written in primers, in spelling books and in almanacs; let it be preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in legislative halls, enforced in courts of justice. In short, let it become the political religion of the nation."
Abraham Lincoln*

*"The philosophy of the classroom today will be the philosophy of government tomorrow."
Abraham Lincoln*



INDIVIDUALITY

"We believe each student is gifted and offers a unique contribution. We know each individually and tailor teaching methods to fit individual needs."

"I wanted students to see each other differently. We don't see whole people in school. We see only pieces. Teachers... often see only a small slice of who their students really are... Students also see each other through narrow lenses. (We) tend to categorize each other quickly, not realizing that one is a gifted violinist, or another is a star hockey player, or that another has worked for years to build the strength to do an arabesque... If I could start my students off with something about which they, individually, felt passionate and self-confident, all of them would be more ready and willing to do 'the school thing,' that is, learn research and writing skills. I also believed that the students in the class would begin to see each other differently if they witnessed this passion and self-confidence at work in their peers."

Kathy Greeley – *Why Fly That Way*

It is not a student's outward difference that is celebrated at Entheos, it is their inward uniqueness; the distinctive set of qualities that identify their good character. As they engage in the process of self-discovery and come to better understand their own strengths and weaknesses, they learn to value themselves for their gifts and all that they have to offer. They are taught to set goals to overcome their weaknesses, and further develop their strengths, always striving toward their best.

Groups are made up of individuals. Individuality increases the richness of ideas, creative power, problem-solving ability of the whole.

People discover their abilities, values, passions, and responsibilities in situations that offer adventure and the unexpected.

What Individuality Looks Like:

We strive to build an atmosphere of confidence and self-worth amongst all students and staff.

We investigate and value our Individual differences, our unique outlook on life, our different histories and cultures.

We learn to draw on the strengths of the whole class as we work in small groups and as members of our crew.

We come to recognize our individual "gifts" as we participate in engaging new learning experiences that encourage the discovery of personal interests and talents.

Teachers know their students as individuals, including

their strengths and weaknesses and tailor teaching methods to help each student thrive academically.

Student's names are known and repeated daily in crew.

Teachers help students discover their "gifts" through careful observation and pointing these gifts out to the students. Teachers fill in a section of each student's portfolio on the individual's gifts and guide students in setting goals, tracking their progress, and keeping their portfolios current.

Students compile in-depth portfolios that illustrate their individuality and help them recognize their progress, as well as identify their strengths and gifts. Students recognize weak areas and make intentional plans to improve in those areas. Students are able to articulate and clearly explain these things to others while taking personal responsibility for their learning.

ADVENTURE

“We believe outdoor adventure helps participants learn teamwork, courage, craftsmanship, perseverance and compassion, while discovering they can accomplish more than they thought possible.”

“The world is our classroom” is a reality at Entheos where the use of natural and community settings allow learning to extend beyond the confines of school walls. Camping, summer and winter outdoor sports, and solitude experiences provide significant educational and personal growth opportunities for students.

Utah is unique with its beautiful landscapes and national parks. Students at Entheos have the opportunity to experience this natural beauty while participating in academic and physical challenges. These experiences help students conquer fears and accomplish more than they thought possible.

What Adventure Looks Like:

Curiosity is fostered through exploration in the natural world.

Students learn the value of challenging themselves while trying new things.

Students participate in outdoor activities such as camping, backpacking, hiking, canoeing, white-water rafting, snowshoeing, skiing, etc...

As teachers challenge students and inspire exploration, students develop an appreciation for the natural world and a desire to protect and respect nature.

On each outdoor adventure, carefully planned learning targets, with an adventurous twist, engage students in inspiring academic challenges. Journaling and reflection are always included.

A feeling of excitement is alive within the Entheos community. The school is constantly “buzzing like a beehive,” and always anticipating the next great adventure.

FAMILY

“We believe that the family is the fundamental unit of society. The greatest influences in shaping a child’s future are the experiences and teachings that happen within the walls of their own home.”

*"Your success as a family, our success as a society, depends not on what happens at the White House, but what happens inside your house."
Barbara Bush*

Next to our students, parents are Entheos' most important stakeholders. We recognize that many families have chosen Entheos in an effort to preserve values that their family holds dear. Maintaining these values for families becomes one of our most important stewardships.

Special consideration is given to the impact of school policies and practices on the families we serve. Siblings are always granted priority enrollment status in school lotteries.

Teachers, Administration and the School Board respect the input and opinions of Parents and recognize that they know their children best. Parents are welcome to participate in fieldwork assignments and other off-site trips.

The strength of families is a key factor in the overall health of society. Entheos will always strive to support and strengthen families.

What Family Looks Like:

Family time is honored.

Homework is minimal and relevant.

School schedules and calendars take into account their impact on families.

Special effort is made to avoid scheduling more than one evening activity in a given week. To provide families with one consistently clear evening per week, no activities are scheduled on Monday evenings.

Families are welcome to be involved in school and expected to volunteer significantly (30 hours per year).

The family comes before the institution.

"We call upon responsible citizens and officers of government everywhere to promote those measures designed to maintain and strengthen the family as the fundamental unit of society."

Gordon B. Hinckley

