

April 5, 2022

Dear Ascend Families,

This academic year feels like it's flying by. It seems hard to believe we are already at spring break! Our students have been hard at work and continue to excel. Lower elementary students led parades and book studies for Black History Month and Women's History Month; our 3rd - 8th grade students took the ELA test last week and showcased all they've learned this year and their inherent excellence; and our high school boys' basketball team led a nearly undefeated season. We are so proud of our students as they dream big, and we will continue to cheer them on throughout the final months of the school year.

Speaking of big dreams, I want to share with you the future we dream for our Ascend community and our students. Over the past few months, we have worked with you, our staff, and our students to create our vision for the future, and I am excited to share back Ascend's purpose, mission, and values that we created together. These statements express why Ascend exists, what we do each and every day, and how we will act to bring our vision to life. Thank you to the many families who participated in this project, sharing your input through focus groups, interviews, and surveys.

Here is Ascend's new purpose, mission, and values:



**Our Purpose**

Purpose describes why we exist. It's aspirational. It tells us the big mark we want to leave on the world.

Ascend exists to serve  
**EVERY STUDENT**  
to help them embody their  
**INHERENT EXCELLENCE**  
by providing rich, joyful learning  
experiences that unlock a life of  
**BOUNDLESS CHOICE.**

A graphic illustration of two children climbing a set of stairs. The stairs are dark, and the children are silhouetted against a bright blue light. Several pink, starburst shapes are scattered around the stairs. The Ascend logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the graphic.

### Our Mission

Mission describes what we do to bring our purpose to life. It's practical. It describes the high level methods we use and the outcomes we're seeking.

Ascend is a network of K-12 schools that honor, nurture, and challenge the whole child. We foster critical thinking skills and a love of learning through our inquiry-based learning approach, Responsive Classroom model, and anti-racist education. We are deeply committed to advancing educational equity for all of our students.



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### Our Values



**We are relentlessly bold.**

We dream wild futures inspired by our students' power and confidently act on our unwavering belief that together, we can bring these dreams to life.

**We are in love with learning.**

We embody the hard work, dedication, and tenacity that power our learning journey and believe that laughter, community, creativity, and curiosity strengthen us along the way.

**We are in this together.**

We thrive through strong relationships amongst our schools, our families, and our communities, becoming stronger by learning from and with each other.

**We are committed to shaping a more equitable future.**

We work endlessly to ensure an equitable and just education for our students that is rooted in anti-racism and advances equity in our schools and in our world.

**We are a place for all people.**

We treat every person with dignity and respect, celebrating the many unique identities that add beauty, authenticity, knowledge, and depth to our community.

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It is this purpose, mission, and values that guide all we do, and the work continues for us to meet the beautiful aspirations we've articulated here. At the start of the new school year we will introduce our new values to our students and you will begin hearing these in our classrooms and seeing them in our school buildings. Thank you for being a part of the Ascend community as we partner collaboratively to bring this vision to life. We would love to hear from you with your reactions to this vision or ideas you have for embedding it in our school communities. Please feel free to reach us at [purpose@ascendlearning.org](mailto:purpose@ascendlearning.org) or to connect directly with your school leaders.

Have a wonderful spring break!

Sincerely,

Recy Benjamin Dunn  
Chief Executive Officer

5 avril 2022

Chè Fanmi Ascend yo,

Ane akademik sa sanble ap vole. Nou pa ka kwè nou gentan nan vakans prentan! Elèv nou yo travay di e yo kontinye ap bay bon rezilta. Elèv klas elemantè yo te òganize parad ak etid liv alokasyon Mwa Istwa Moun Nwa ak Mwa Istwa Fanm yo; elèv 3yèm - 8yèm ane nou yo pran tès ELA semèn pase epi yo montre tout sa yo aprann ane sa a ansanm ak ekselans fondamantal yo; epi ekip baskètbòl gason lekòl segondè nou yo te gen yon sezon preske san defèt. Nou tèlman fyè de elèv nou yo pandan y ap reve gwo, e n ap kontinye ankouraje yo pandan dènye mwa ane lekòl la.

Palan de gwo rèv, mwen vle pataje avèk nou avni nou reve pou kosminote Ascend nou an ak elèv nou yo. Pandan kèk mwa ki sot pase yo, nou travay avèk ou, anplwaye nou yo, ak elèv nou yo pou kreye vizyon nou pou lavni, e mwen kontan anpil pou m pataje objektif, misyon ak valè Ascend nou te kreye ansanm yo. Deklarasyon sa yo esplike poukisa Ascend egziste, sa nou fè chak jou, ak kijan nou pral aji pou bay vizyon nou an lavi. Mès a anpil fanmi ki te patisipe nan pwojè sa a, nan pataje opinyon yo atravè gwoup diskisyon, entèvyou, ak sondaj.

Men nouvo objektif, misyon, ak valè Ascend yo:



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Ascend la pou l sèvi chak elèv pou ede yo reprezante ekselans fondamantal yo atravè esperyans aprantisaj rich ak nan lajwa ki louvri pòt pou yon lavi ranpli ak chwa san limit.

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Ascend se yon rezo lekòl depi matènèl (Kindergarten) rive 12yèm ane ki onore, nourri, ak ankouraje timoun nan tout fondalnatal li. Nou ankouraje konpetans pou panse kritik ak lanmou pou aprann atravè metòd aprantisaj nou an ki baze sou rechèch, modèl Sal Klas Kap Reyaji nou an, ak edikasyon anti-rasis nou an. Nou pran gwo angajman pou n fè avanse yon sèl edikasyon pou tout elèv nou yo.

**Our Values**



<p><b>DREAMING AUDACIOUSLY</b></p>	<p><b>STRIVING JOYFULLY</b></p>	<p><b>PARTNERING COLLABORATIVELY</b></p>	<p><b>CENTERING JUSTICE</b></p>	<p><b>CHAMPIONING BELONGING</b></p>
<p><b>We are relentlessly bold.</b></p> <p>We dream wild futures inspired by our students' power and confidently act on our unwavering belief that together, we can bring these dreams to life.</p>	<p><b>We are in love with learning.</b></p> <p>We embody the hard work, dedication, and tenacity that power our learning journey and believe that laughter, community, creativity, and curiosity strengthen us along the way.</p>	<p><b>We are in this together.</b></p> <p>We thrive through strong relationships amongst our schools, our families, and our communities, becoming stronger by learning from and with each other.</p>	<p><b>We are committed to shaping a more equitable future.</b></p> <p>We work endlessly to ensure an equitable and just education for our students that is rooted in anti-racism and advances equity in our schools and in our world.</p>	<p><b>We are a place for all people.</b></p> <p>We treat every person with dignity and respect, celebrating the many unique identities that add beauty, authenticity, knowledge, and depth to our community.</p>

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Senk valè Ascend yo se reve avèk odas, fè efò ak kè kontan, fè tèt ansanm, konsantre sou jistis epi defann santiman apatenans. Kouraj nou pa fayi. Nou renmen aprann. Nou anbake ansanm. Nou pran angajman pou n kreye yon avni ekitab. Pòt nou louvri pou tout moun.

Se objektif sa a, misyon, ak valè sa yo ki gide tout sa nou fè, epi travay la ap kontinye pou nou satisfè bèl aspirasyon nou espoze nan lèt sa. Nan kòmansman nouvo ane lekòl la, nou pral prezante nouvo valè nou yo bay elèv nou yo epi w ap kòmansse tandè yo nan salklas nou yo epi wè yo nan bilding lekòl nou yo. Mèsi paske w fè pati kominote Ascend la pandan n ap fè kolabore ansanm pou vizyon

sa vin yon reyalite. Nou ta renmen ou pataje avèk nou reyaksyon w sou vizyon sa a oswa ide w genyen pou w entegre l nan kominote lekòl nou yo. Tanpri, pa ezite kontakte nou nan [purpose@ascendlearning.org](mailto:purpose@ascendlearning.org) oswa konekte dirèkteman ak dirijan lekòl ou yo.

Pase bèl vakans prentan!

Nou salye w,

Recy Benjamin Dunn  
Direktè Jeneral

5 de abril de 2022

Estimadas familias de Ascend:

Este año académico se siente como si pasara volando. ¡Parece difícil de creer que ya estamos en las vacaciones de primavera! Nuestros estudiantes han estado trabajando duro y continúan sobresaliendo. Los estudiantes de primaria inferior dirigieron desfiles y estudios de libros para el Mes de la Historia Negra y el Mes de la Historia de la Mujer; nuestros estudiantes de 3.º a 8.º grado rindieron el examen ELA la semana pasada y demostraron todo lo que aprendieron este año y su excelencia inherente, y el equipo de baloncesto masculino de nuestra escuela secundaria lideró una temporada casi invicta. Estamos muy orgullosos de nuestros estudiantes porque sueñan en grande, y continuaremos alentándolos durante los últimos meses del año escolar.

Hablando de grandes sueños, quiero compartir con ustedes el futuro que soñamos para nuestra comunidad Ascend y nuestros estudiantes. En los últimos meses hemos trabajado con ustedes, con nuestro personal y con nuestros estudiantes para crear nuestra visión para el futuro, y me entusiasma compartir el propósito, la misión y los valores de Ascend que creamos juntos. Estas afirmaciones expresan por qué existe Ascend, qué hacemos todos los días y cómo actuaremos para hacer realidad nuestra visión. Agradezco a las muchas familias que participaron en este proyecto, compartiendo su opinión a través de grupos de enfoque, entrevistas y encuestas.

Aquí está el nuevo propósito, misión y valores de Ascend:




Ascend existe para prestar servicio a cada estudiante, para ayudarlos a expresar su excelencia inherente al proporcionar experiencias de aprendizaje ricas y alegres que abren una vida de opciones ilimitadas.

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Ascend es una red de escuelas K-12 que honran, nutren y desafían al niño en su totalidad. Fomentamos las habilidades de pensamiento crítico y el amor por el aprendizaje a través de nuestro enfoque de aprendizaje basado en la investigación, el modelo de aula receptiva y la educación antirracista. Estamos profundamente comprometidos con el avance de la equidad educativa para todos nuestros estudiantes.

**Our Values**



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Los cinco valores de Ascend son soñar con audacia, esforzarse con alegría, asociarse en colaboración, centrarse en la justicia y defender la pertenencia. Somos implacablemente audaces. Estamos enamorados del aprendizaje. Estamos en esto juntos. Estamos comprometidos a dar forma a un futuro más equitativo. Somos un lugar para todas las personas.

Es este propósito, esta misión y estos valores los que guían todo lo que hacemos, y el trabajo continúa para que cumplamos las hermosas aspiraciones que hemos articulado aquí. Al comienzo del nuevo año escolar, presentaremos estos nuevos valores a nuestros estudiantes y comenzarán a escucharlos en nuestras aulas y verlos en nuestros edificios escolares. Gracias por ser parte de la comunidad de Ascend mientras trabajamos en colaboración para hacer realidad esta visión. Nos encantaría conocer sus reacciones a esta visión o las ideas que tiene para integrarla en nuestras comunidades escolares. No dude en comunicarse con nosotros a [purpose@ascendlearning.org](mailto:purpose@ascendlearning.org) o conectarse directamente con los líderes de su escuela.

¡Que tengan unas maravillosas vacaciones de primavera!

Atentamente,

Recy Benjamin Dunn  
Director Ejecutivo