

## The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learner – Key Characteristics

The Rocky View School Division believes in the importance of engaging “all learners through meaningful and challenging experiences, preparing them to understand, adapt and contribute to our changing global community’.

To help prepare students for our global community, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century School:

- ✓ will be a learning culture where all members, students, staff and parents, form and contribute to a community of learners.
- ✓ will use technologies in a collaborative, inquiry-based learning environment with learners who are willing and able to use the power of technology to assist them in transforming knowledge and skills into products, solutions and new information.

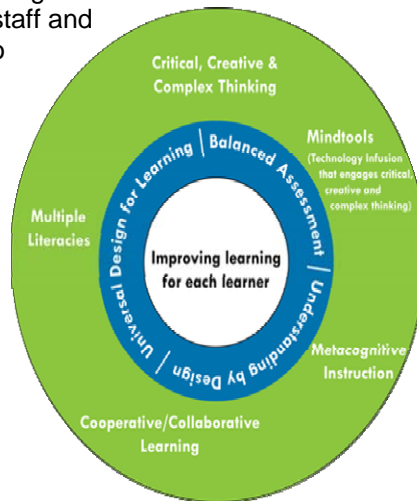
To succeed in our global community, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learner must become:

- ✓ **A Critical Thinker** (the student is capable of analyzing and synthesizing complex information).
- ✓ **A Problem Solver** (the student is competent in using a variety problem solving skills and strategies).
- ✓ **An Innovator** (the student has original ideas and is willing to share them with others).
- ✓ **A Communicator** (the student can communicate a clear and coherent message in a variety of formats).
- ✓ **A Collaborator** (the student is a team player and works well with others respecting differences).
- ✓ **Globally Aware** (the student understands the inter-connectivity of the world around him/her).
- ✓ **Civically and Community Engaged** (the student practices good citizenship, respect and concern for others).
- ✓ **A Self-directed Learner** (the student can work independently and/or mentor others).
- ✓ **Literate in Information Technology and the Media** (the student is capable of using a variety of digital and video apparatus to convey meaning).
- ✓ **Financially and Economically Literate** (the student understands how economies work and the inter-relationship with financial accountability)

This year at Westbrook School students and staff will continue to implement and integrate a variety of strategies to incorporate 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning pedagogy into the classroom. Our plan is to directly link our AISI project on Balanced Assessment with our Embedded Coaching Projects. The results will be staff and students using:

- ✓ The RVS Learning Model based on 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning strategies (see diagram on the next page).
- ✓ Student and teacher designed exemplars and rubrics.
- ✓ Differentiated lessons and instructions that incorporate assistive technology.
- ✓ A new mobile Macbook lab with wireless connectivity.

- ✓ At least three interactive white boards for classrooms to introduce students to a variety of digital activities.
- ✓ LCD projectors for all classrooms to allow students direct internet connectivity in large group settings.
- ✓ Staff and student use of the school's plone site for easy access to projects, assignments and newsletters.
- ✓ A proactive approach to reporting with the introduction of interim reports and pre-interviews to allow students, staff and parents to work as a "team" to develop strategies for improvement well in advance of the formal report each term.



Rocky View Schools Learning Model

Our goal is also to provide a number of information seminars for our parents to help them understand the initiatives behind 21 Century Learning strategies. These information presentations will include:

- ✓ Staff presentations at each School Council Meetings on teacher best practices incorporating 21<sup>st</sup> century learning.
- ✓ The provision of an "internet café" for parents to come in and have access to high speed internet; the school will dedicate one of its Macbooks to this project and provide student mentors to assist parents. The objective here is to have parents using our plone site to access information.
- ✓ Parents will have the opportunity to monitor their child's progress in Grades 5-8 as we introduce them to Home Logic.
- ✓ Parents will become active partners in the reporting process with the new interim reporting and pre-interview process.
- ✓ Newsletters beginning in November will include information on 21 Century Learning and how it can be integrated into classroom activities.
- ✓ Parents and students will have a presentation on Internet Safety by Dean De Paoli on Friday November 6 immediately after school.

As always, our intent is to continue to build a strong and committed Community of Learners at Westbrook School – a community that includes students, staff and parents. Please remember that 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning is not just the use of computers. Computers are merely a tool in the process. To become an active and informed member of any 21<sup>st</sup> Century community it is important that we assist our children in "fine tuning" the above skill sets.

Mr. G. McClure  
Principal

