

## Philosophy of Principal Mark Williams

As your Principal, I look forward to working with the wonderful staff of Rock Creek to ensure that each and every student is given the greatest opportunity to reach their potential. School is much more than just academics. While a foundation in academics is vital, it is as important for the students to be well rounded in a variety of areas in order for them to reach their full potential. As Principal of Rock Creek, I feel it is important for you to have a clear understanding of my philosophy in education. Below are five areas that are not only found throughout the 7 Habits within the Leader in Me program, but also provide you with my overall philosophy of teaching the “whole child”.

### Foundational Academic Skills

Provide the strongest foundation in Reading, Writing, Math and Technology to allow for success later in all subjects.  
Emphasize Collaboration to build strong speaking/listening skills when working with others in a positive & constructive manner.  
Build strong organizational and time management skills to allow for success both inside and outside the classroom.

### Ability to Critically Think

Provide students the ability to engage in authentic learning experiences to allow them to think critically.  
Emphasize with students the ability to Predict, Inquire for the deeper answers and foster the ability to question “Why”.  
Foster student initiatives to empower thinking beyond the simple answer and to drive thinking outside the box to reach a goal.

### Character & Compassion

Embed the qualities of the Leader In Me philosophy so that students learn what it takes to be a strong leader.  
Provide opportunities to build character and responsibility in order to serve and mentor others as a service to the community.  
Emphasize importance of setting/reaching goals as well as taking time to recognize accomplishments to build self esteem.

### Health (Mental & Physical)

Ensure students understand the importance of both Socio-Emotional and Physical health as they mature.  
Emphasize Extra-Curricular activities to provide an outlet for students for social-emotional and physical benefits.  
Embed conflict resolution skills within the curriculum to allow students to learn how to solve problems with others productively.

### A Passion for Learning

Provide opportunities through Field Trips, Project Based Learning & Enrichment programs to encourage a passion for learning.  
Provide students the opportunity to find a passion for reading, inquiry, and learning that foster creative engagement.  
Promote to students the goal of higher education as the norm instead of the exception.

Last but certainly not least, the words “Kasserian Ingera” have had a lasting impact on me as an educator over the course of my career. This phrase comes from among the most accomplished and fabled tribes of Africa. No tribe was considered to be more successful than the mighty Masai. It is perhaps surprising to learn that the traditional greeting passed between the Masai warriors was “Kasserian Ingera” which translates to “and how are the children?”. The reason for this greeting was that this tribe believed that if the children were well, the tribe would succeed. Thus every decision made was done so in the best interest of children. **It is this lens that drives me as an educator and one that will allow me to ensure that all decisions are done in the best interest of our students at Rock Creek.**

I am honored to be the Principal of Rock Creek and look forward to many wonderful years as a part of the Rock Creek Family.

**Go Red Hawks!**