



Brillante Core Values

(Feb. 2021 draft)

We Value Children: At Brillante we value the voices of children and respect children as intelligent, creative learners with gifts and abilities that will change the world for the better. We believe children play a central role in their own learning, and that this learning is critical to the health of our communities. Learning happens when children form relationships with one another, ideas, materials, and environments.

We Value Family: Brillante is a family gathering space, and families are actively engaged in decision-making and leadership of the learning center. We believe this is a place where children, families, and educators can participate together through listening, dialogue, and exchange to shape rich STEAM learning opportunities.

We Value Inclusion: At Brillante we believe diversity strengthens our community. We value inclusion of children, families, and educators with varied abilities, and we honor cultural and linguistic diversity. We acknowledge the power of starting young to remove barriers to the recruitment, retention, and advancement of students and families from historically-excluded populations, currently underrepresented in STEAM.

We Value Rich Learning Environments: Environments play a critical role in learning, and Brillante provides hands-on, STEAM-rich indoor and outdoor learning spaces. Its relationship to Explora ensures access to inquiry-based programs and exhibits in a museum setting, atelier, Maker space, kitchen, garden, and more. There is order and beauty in the arrangement of space, equipment, and materials.





Brillante Guiding Principles

(Feb. 2021 draft)

Our guiding principles for teaching and learning inform all aspects of the school experience and keep Brillante a relevant, thriving place. Each principle is connected, influenced, and shaped by the others. Brillante's guiding principles are inspired and influenced by the early childhood schools of Reggio Emilia, Italy; research in the field of neuroscience; and constructivist practice.

1. Children come to school full of wisdom and experience, ready to use their creativity, curiosity, and imaginations to make meaning of their lives and the world around them.
2. Children, families, educators, and community members bring strength and local wisdom that contributes to rich environments and meaningful learning experiences.
3. Learning is made visible in many ways, and children use words, drawing, numbers, painting, sculpture, music, and more to express what they know, understand, wonder, and feel. Educators value documentation to demonstrate and understand children's learning strategies and outcomes.
4. Children learn through their curiosity and open-ended exploration with a materials-rich curriculum, focused on STEAM, literacy, and the natural world. Children develop through interaction and relationships with other people, ideas, objects, and symbols.
5. Educators are engaged in collaborative reflection, discussion, and dialogue, based on observation of children at play. Ongoing professional development for teachers and pre-service teachers is embedded into the school ecosystem, in partnership with higher education institutions.
6. Children and adults collaborate as researchers and co-creators of learning.
7. Family participation in the life of the school is essential and takes many forms. Families bring vitality and richness by contributing diverse life experiences and wisdom.