

Memorial Junior High School Mission Statement and Philosophy:

Mission Statement:

Memorial Junior High School is committed to developing the “heart and mind” of our students. Our focus is to promote the social, emotional and intellectual growth of our students and to prepare them to be good citizens and life-long learners. Our vision, which is shared by all staff, students, parents and community members, is promoting *Excellence in Academics and Ethics*.

Philosophy:

Memorial dedicates itself to:

- 1) **Academic rigor and instruction that is relevant, integrative and exploratory:** This will help students be prepared to meet the demands of 21st century skills. It promotes critical thinking, creativity, collaboration/communication and how to be successful in high school and college. Memorial’s educational philosophy asserts that students learn best when they are actively involved in their education, when they become responsible for their growth as students, and when their learning is based on life experiences.
- 2) **Social-Emotional Development:** Middle School adolescents are undergoing significant changes and this is a critical time for them to feel confident and meet academic success. A school that is able to support the social-emotional learning of a student typically sees an increase in academic achievement. We have created an atmosphere where the “heart and mind” are developed equally. This has been done through caring and nurturing PPS staff, a strong 7th grade Team Philosophy, and a comprehensive Citizenship/Anti-bullying program.

Creating after school activities for students to participate in is an important part of this domain and helping students develop socially and emotionally. Departmental and individual teacher efforts resulted in successes both academically and socially for our students. This contributes to a culture for learning that addresses the whole child. I am proud to report that numerous staff members continue to contribute to opportunities for students to succeed outside the classroom.

- 3) **Structure:** Memorial Junior High School implements a fair and consistent disciplinary policy that provides a safe and secure learning environment for every student. Memorial has set not only high standards for academic achievement, but for student behavior as well. Students often thrive in an environment where they feel safe and learning is valued.
- 4) **Parent involvement:** Parents have an enormous impact on student attitude, attendance and academic achievement. The entire staff has embraced this philosophy and is constantly emailing parents, using Edmodo, and meeting with parents. In addition, I conduct Saturday Parent Coffee Talk meetings to keep parents informed on numerous issues such as the dangers of social media, shifts in curriculum and other topics relevant to junior high school parents.

