

Innovative Thinker

Rationale: Robbinsville students must encompass innovative thinking skills in order to be successful lifelong learners in the 21st century world. As stated by Karl Fisch and Scott McLeod in the short film *Shift Happens*, “We are currently preparing students for jobs that don’t yet exist . . . using technologies that haven’t been invented . . . in order to solve problems we don’t even know are problems yet.” Innovative thinkers are able to think analytically, solve problems critically, creatively engage in curiosity and tinkering, and demonstrate originality.

As an **educator** of innovative students, I will:

- Assign roles such as: task definer, strategist, monitor, and challenger to students
 - Infuse analytical thinking skills in class activities
 - Foster an environment where students take risks
 - Scaffold creative thinking with structure
 - Model approaching a problem from multiple perspectives
 - Encourage diversity in thought, process, and product
 - Provide opportunities for feedback and revision
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Students:

In order to be a critical and creative problem solver, I can:

- Identify a problem, need, or idea from various sources
- Recognize specific areas that need improvement based on an identified problem
- Develop solutions that have potential to add significant value to a situation or problem at hand
- Account for limitations in developing real-world solutions
- Persevere through a task

In order to think analytically, I can:

- Collect information from reliable sources that applies to a question asked or problem posed
- Evaluate reliability and bias of sources
- Synthesize ideas to strengthen an existing innovation
- Find patterns amongst ideas and make meaning of them

In order to engage in curiosity and tinkering, I can:

- Generate questions about a situation, phenomena, or prompt
- Use opportunities presented to foster curiosity
- Wonder and inquire about concrete and abstract concepts

- Utilize fine motor skills to build a deeper understanding of the task at hand

In order to demonstrate originality, I can:

- Appropriately express ideas, thoughts, and opinions of my own
- Look at a task/issue/problem from multiple perspectives
- Develop effective solutions or products that have not been previously made
- Integrate ideas from multiple disciplines into a solution or product