

Augusta Independent Unveils Portrait of a Panther Framework

Over the last six months, Augusta Independent has been developing and implementing the new Portrait of a Panther framework with the faculty, staff, and students. Modeled after the 'Portrait of a Learner' initiative being implemented in schools across Kentucky, our Portrait of a Panther framework defines the essential skills and character traits every student needs to thrive long after graduation.

The Portrait of a Panther is a set of four competencies which will serve as the foundation and inspiration for educating students. The four competencies of the Portrait of a Panther are as follows:

- Responsible Citizen
- Effective Communicator
- Resilient Learner
- Critical Thinker

"The development of this framework has been a collaborative effort among the leadership team and the faculty, ensuring we have a variety of perspectives," said Assistant Superintendent Tim Litteral. "We evaluated other similar initiatives in the state, while looking at our own needs and values to develop the competencies and more importantly the skills that we will focus on while educating our students."

The Portrait of a Panther is not simply a set of ideals. Grade level learning activities have been established and will begin in Kindergarten in order to teach students the skills that are necessary for success in the 21st century. Throughout high school, students will create artifacts that show their progress toward obtaining these skills. The program will culminate as seniors deliver a defense of learning presentation to a committee of administrators, teachers, and community partners.

"This initiative continues our focus on increasing student achievement and student success, while preparing students for post-secondary opportunities," said Superintendent Lisa McCane. "By implementing this program across all grade levels, we emphasize our commitment to integrating skill-building activities directly into the core academic curriculum."

The graphic is a large rectangular box with a grey background and a black border. At the top, the title "PORTRAIT OF A PANTHER" is written in large, bold, black capital letters. Below the title, the subtitle "COMPETENCIES & SKILLS" is written in smaller, bold, black capital letters. The graphic is divided into four vertical orange panels, each representing a competency. Each panel has a circular icon at the top with a panther head and a graduation cap, and text below. The first panel is for "RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN", the second for "EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR", the third for "RESILIENT LEARNER", and the fourth for "CRITICAL THINKER". At the bottom of the graphic, the text "AUGUSTA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT" is written in bold, black capital letters.

PORTRAIT OF A PANTHER

COMPETENCIES & SKILLS

RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN	EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR	RESILIENT LEARNER	CRITICAL THINKER
Exhibits punctuality, preparedness and organization	Expresses ideas clearly and confidently and communicates for a range of purposes	Demonstrates knowledge and application of academic and life skills	Asks questions to clarify and seek new learning
Exhibits school and community pride	Actively listens to understand and respond	Learns from successes and failures	Seeks diverse perspectives
Demonstrates positive character with responsibility and accountability	Uses technology and media effectively and responsibly	Uses organizational skills to achieve academic, personal, and professional growth	Explains ideas and plans next steps
Makes a positive impact through contribution as a leader and/or team member	Gives and receives meaningful feedback	Demonstrates a growth mindset	Uses information and feedback to continually improve
Demonstrates respect and compassion toward others	Engages diverse audiences respectfully and sensitively	Sets goals for transition readiness, explores postsecondary options, and takes steps toward realizing both	Demonstrates originality, imagination, and innovation

AUGUSTA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT