



The Penns Valley Learning Experience

Empowering our students every day to reach individual success

Vision: The Penns Valley Area School District is a rural and progressive community dedicated to the well-being of each student. We seek to create engaged, passionate, and motivated life-long learners who will become contributing members of society. We are committed to effective communication within a supportive and trusting environment that will create a shared understanding between all members of the school community.

I. Academic GOAL: Create an innovative *content-rich* school system with high levels of individualized *student engagement* and *critical thinking*.

- **Content-rich:** Comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
- **Student Engagement:** The best evidence for student engagement is what students are saying and doing as a consequence of what the teacher does, or has done, or has planned. The critical distinction between a classroom in which students are compliant and busy, and one in which they are engaged, is that in the latter students are developing their understanding through what they do. That is, they are engaged in discussion, debate, answering “what if?” questions, discovering patterns, and the like.
- **Critical Thinking:** Critical thinking is that mode of thinking — about any subject, content, or problem — in which the thinker improves the quality of his or her thinking by skillfully analyzing, assessing, and reconstructing it.

II. School Culture GOAL: Create a *supportive* and *trusting environment* for all *stakeholders* so that everyone has a mindset of *lifelong learning* and *continuous growth*.

- **Supportive:** Stakeholders are treated in a kind and respectful way. Differing ideas, thoughts and perspectives are considered. The first step of being supportive is to approach the matter at hand from an attitude of helpfulness. Stakeholders are expected to listen, seek understanding and respond respectfully. Disagreement between individuals is acceptable with appropriate rationale.
- **Trusting Environment:** Belief that others have your best interest in mind. A belief that there is continuous growth and an understanding that mistakes are opportunities to improve.
- **Stakeholders:** All members of the school community and community at large.
- **Lifelong Learning and Continuous Growth:** Stakeholders are inspired and committed to continually seeking to understand new ideas and perspectives. Stakeholders maintain the tenacity to persevere through failure.