

What are “Future Ready Skills?”

The Kirkwood School District recognizes the importance of standardized test scores, and we understand the need for students to be “college and career ready” for whatever may come after graduation. These typical measures are not enough, however, and they alone should not dictate our work with children. Working over the course of twelve months – with input from well over a thousand students, teachers, parents, and community members – we identified 17 key indicators, organized into five interdependent categories, that define future-ready in the Kirkwood School District.

In the Kirkwood School District, future ready learners...



Wellness, Joy, & Hope

- Are physically and mentally healthy, prepared to live a lifestyle of wellness
- Possess the confidence and adaptive skills to take risks, work hard, and be resilient in the face of challenges
- Use visual and performing arts to inspire thinking, communicate ideas, and better understand the world around them



Connection & Collaboration

- Build and maintain healthy relationships, demonstrating kindness, respect, character, and integrity
- Serve as empathetic learners and leaders, with the ability to understand others’ needs and the potential impact of their actions on those around them
- Are skilled at working with others – in person and via technology – to collaborate around ideas, accomplish tasks, and advance new learning



Flexible Thinking

- Think critically and creatively about ideas to find and solve problems across a wide range of situations
- Leverage technology flexibly to access information, collaborate, make/create, and communicate ideas
- Capitalize on mistakes and failures to advance thinking, learning, and understanding
- Use design thinking and iteration to explore complex issues
- Manage cognitive load to effectively process new information



Disciplinary Literacy & Application

- Read, write, and question to actively understand and discern ideas, within and across disciplines
- Apply knowledge from multiple disciplines to new and unpredictable situations
- Actively make use of media literacy and digital citizenship skills

Literacy – Numeracy – Scientific Literacy – Financial Literacy – Cultural & Civic Literacy



Global Citizenship

- Serve as global citizens, with an appreciation for diverse cultures/ideas and a commitment to inclusion and equity
- Engage in efforts to improve one’s community – locally and globally – through service, advocacy, and civic responsibility
- Serve as stewards of our environment, with a sense of connectedness to and responsibility for our planet

