

The Roeper School Philosophy

George and Annemarie Roeper, refugees who witnessed the moral cataclysm of Hitler's Third Reich, responded by founding The Roeper School on a philosophy for life. The Roeper School exists because of this philosophy in order to provide a safe place for children to grow into intelligent and sensitive contributors to their world. This philosophy lives at the core of the life of the school implying intellectual, emotional, ethical and practical consequences for each community member's life.

The importance of realizing the positive potential of each individual is central to the school philosophy. Through a process of life-long learning, each individual strives to become self-actualized as a moral, creative, productive, and fulfilled person, partner and global citizen. The school recognizes that all people are unique and develop according to their own timetable and plan. This development grows from everyday decisions and genuine expressions of care, kindness, humility, respect and responsibility. All individuals strive to fulfill their distinct destiny, to express themselves sincerely, and to learn from the example of others. This optimistic, humanistic view of life affirms every person's potential for growth, happiness, and compassion.

As importantly, we recognize that as individuals we live in a community, which is a freely cooperative, mutually respectful association with all other people. This interrelationship is founded upon respecting the inherent dignity of every human being; believing in human rights for all people; relying upon justice, cooperation and non-violence, and not upon power in relationships; embracing the beauty of diversity; valuing differences; recognizing the essential interdependence of all living things; and accepting one's obligations to make the world a better place for everyone.

These convictions grow out of the assumption that all people within the institution, regardless of status, age, gender, race, religion, ethnicity or sexual orientation, are empowered in the most basic decision-making, namely, the power to make choices affecting themselves and others. Living according to this interdependent view of life benefits all of us—friends, families, school, and society. As a contributing member of an idealistic community of unique, complete, and interconnected individuals, we strive to explore, understand and value the complexities of ourselves, one another, and our world.

Approved by Board of Trustees
September 1999

Philosophy Committee: Carolyn Borman, David Crawford, Mary Kay Glazek, Elli Kloc, Steve Milbeck, Annemarie Roeper, Janet Sensoli, Ken Seward, Adam Smock, Marie Webb, Doug Winkworth

This statement of The Roeper School Philosophy was drafted as a starting point for the ISACS Self Study. A final version was approved by the Board of Trustees in September 1999 as a document to be used by the teachers and staff in their efforts to determine congruence between the educational program and the school philosophy.