BPS Learning Environment

Birmingham Public Schools supports high academic achievement, with a strong focus on character education, where students are challenged and inspired to make a positive impact on their world.

Rigorous Expectations
College/University preparation ~ Career/life readiness ~ Strong core offerings

Diversity/Cultural Competency
Global/regional outreach ~ Cultural competence ~ ELL/World languages

Character Education
Positive attitude ~ Honesty & integrity ~ Respect & kindness
Responsibility & accountability

Resources
State-of-the-art classrooms ~ Tiered support staff
Well-equipped classrooms

Highly Trained Committed Teachers
Select brightest and best ~ Professional Learning Communities (PLC)
Significant professional development

Parent/Community Partnerships
Building-based Community School/Service Organizers (CSOs)
Active PTAs/Booster groups ~ Extensive communication

Technology
Wireless learning environments ~ Interactive classroom tools
Digital resources

Array of Opportunities
Co-Curricular/Athletics ~ Field trips ~ Enrichment ~ Arts

Sustainable Schools
Student-led initiatives ~ Multiple awards ~ Community involvement

Facilities/Safety
Renovated facilities ~ Updated athletic facilities
Welcoming & nurturing environments

Vision
All learners are inspired and engaged, develop fully and have a positive impact on our diverse, global society, where:
- Students develop a passion for ethical leadership, learning, excelling, innovating and contributing.
- Staff work collectively and collaboratively to ensure a rigorous academic and caring environment that meets the needs of all learners.
- Parents and guardians support the positive development of their children and collaborate with staff for great outcomes for their children.
- Community members create necessary support for children to develop well and are active partners in ensuring the continuation of a great community.

District Goal
Every student is future-ready
- To contribute to their world
- For the global workplace
- For personal success

Teaching and Learning for Global Competence
Teaching and learning for global competence provides experiences that challenge students to better understand their world, to think, develop in-depth understandings and to apply academic learning to be future-ready.

Globally competent students:
- Investigate the world
- Recognize and weigh perspectives
- Communicate ideas
- Take action

Our Mission: By ensuring educational excellence, we challenge and inspire all learners to positively impact their world.
Birmingham Public Schools students will develop the knowledge, skills, and attributes to be future-ready.

LEARNER PROFILE: Birmingham future-ready students are . . .

**Global Citizens of Character**
- Citizens who value local and global perspectives
  - Demonstrate cultural empathy
  - Understand languages and peoples
  - Engage in global issues
  - Collaborate in cross-cultural teams
  - Access global information
  - Promote social justice
- Citizens of character who demonstrate responsibility, respect and care
  - Act ethically
  - Demonstrate trustworthiness
  - Care for the environment
  - Engage in service learning
  - Make responsible and informed decisions
  - Positively influence others
  - Question authority when appropriate
  - Respond to a “call for action”

**Communicators and Collaborators**
- Communicators effectively
  - Read, write and speak skillfully
  - Access information
  - Generate ideas
  - Listen actively and openly
  - Receive feedback
  - Build common vision
  - Use a variety of media and methods
  - Convey ideas clearly
  - Address diverse audiences
- Collaborators who work cooperatively
  - Develop personal learning networks
  - Mediate and resolve conflict positively
  - Know when to lead and when to follow
  - Empower others
  - Build and sustain relationships
  - Assume personal responsibility in group settings
  - Celebrate strengths and difference in others

**Knowledgeable and Skilled**
- Knowledgeable learners who access and understand information
  - Have a strong interdisciplinary foundation
  - Gather information using multiple resources
  - Question the authenticity and legitimacy of information
  - Engage in sustained learning and in-depth projects
  - Communicate information effectively
  - Utilize multiple sources
- Skilled learners who apply knowledge
  - Demonstrate digital literacy
  - Rapidly adapt to new information and situations
  - Synthesize and evaluate information
  - Transfer knowledge to new contexts
  - Engage in authentic research
  - Support reasoning with evidence
  - Work with precision and accuracy

**Critical Thinkers, Questioners and Problem Solvers**
- Critical, analytical, divergent and deep thinkers
  - Reflect
  - Promote exchange of ideas
  - Critique the ideas of others in a positive way
  - Apply multiple strategies
  - Synthesize concepts
- Questioners who inquire
  - Are curious and open-minded
  - Question the status quo
  - Follow a line of thinking
  - Seek understanding
  - Ask questions with real-world applications
- Problem finders and solvers
  - Persevere and persist
  - Seek issues that require solutions
  - Anticipate potential problems
  - Apply creative solutions
  - Support a position

**Creators and Contributors**
- Creators who imagine and innovate
  - Think BIG
  - Embrace artistic expression
  - Construct knowledge
  - Generate new ideas, plans and paradigms
  - Envision and discover possibilities
  - Take risks
  - Use appropriate tool strategically
  - Actively engage others
  - Produce high-quality, original work
- Contributors who share, advocate and enact
  - Act with intent and passion
  - Lead and inspire others
  - Evaluate outcomes
  - Communicate with a variety of audiences
  - Work to achieve future goals

**Motivated, Connected and Self-Directed**
- Motivated learners who engage in meaningful, authentic work
  - Solve real-world problems
  - Actively learn
  - Produce
  - Exhibit passion
  - Motivate themselves and others
- Connected learners discover and understand how to
  - Apply knowledge and information
  - Seek connections across disciplines
  - Adapt to new situations
- Self-directed, independent, thoughtful learners
  - Seek excellence
  - Analyze situations
  - Set challenging goals and monitor progress
  - Take responsibility for learning
  - Self-guided
  - Embrace an entrepreneurial spirit
  - Show initiative
  - Demonstrate commitment