

# The Difference @ Trailblazer Elementary

## Vision

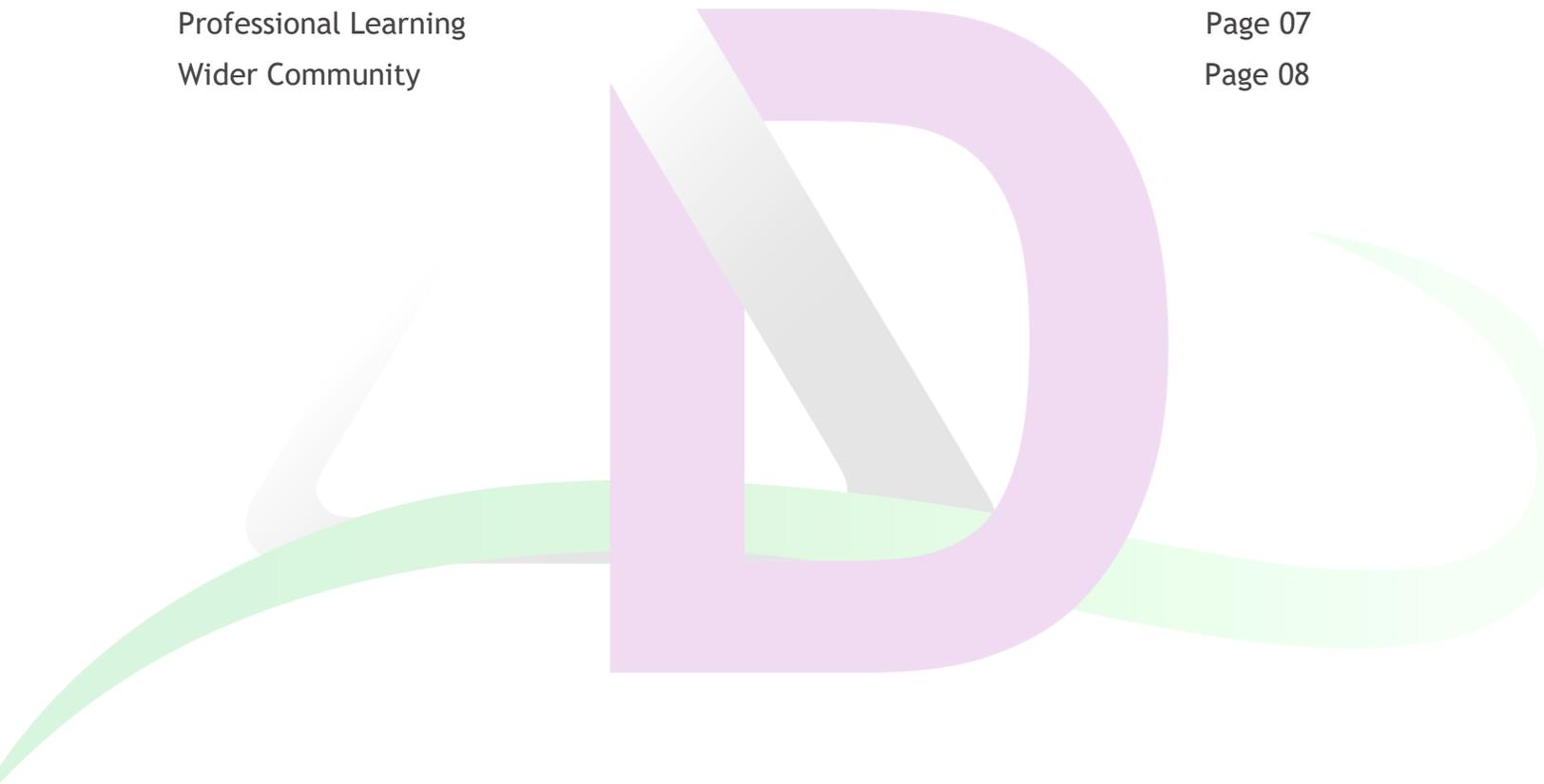


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# The Difference @ Trailblazer Elementary

## INTRODUCTION

This document has been prepared by G&D Associates in conjunction with The Difference @ Trailblazer Elementary Leadership Team.

Developing the learning experience for every individual can only be achieved through an evolutionary transformation. The start of this transformation is the development of a vision. The vision is designed to define how The Difference @ Trailblazer Elementary will develop, support, enhance, and drive forward learning through five key areas.

This document provides a five-year 'vision' and forms the basis for The Difference @ Trailblazer Elementary's strategic planning. The structure applied covers three main parts.

**Part One** is essentially the areas of focus. These have significant overlap as each one is not designed to stand in isolation. Areas are:

- Learning
- Teaching
- Leadership
- Professional Learning
- Wider Community

**Part Two** is the overall vision for The Difference @ Trailblazer Elementary. This comprises a number of broad vision statements contained within the areas listed above. Statements in this section have been selected from the vision narratives.

**Part Three** covers the vision delivery. Many of the thoughts and ideas in this section came through discussion with the school's staff. This element of the vision does not identify specific details as it is designed to be the stepping off point for the Strategic Five-Year Plan.

# The Difference @ Trailblazer Elementary

## Learning

The Difference @ Trailblazer Elementary is dedicated to designing educational experiences that empower each child with the tools and competencies to lead themselves, lead others, and influence the world. We believe all learners should experience daily opportunities to collaborate, problem solve, create, and apply core knowledge to real-world situations, ensuring they are prepared for success in our dynamic society.

To enable a truly personalized experience, our students will access a wide-range of data to make meaningful decisions about their learning pathways. Using this information, students will apply skills through authentic challenges that connect to their academic needs, preferences, and passions. Enriching and engaging learning opportunities at Trailblazer will be inclusive of all, regardless of label, ability, or age.

Learning at Trailblazer will be competency based, meaning students will be grouped by individual need rather than age-based cohorts. Each learner's progression will be informed by evidence of mastery that reaches beyond traditional grades and the narrow measure of a single test score. Our students will collect and reflect on a variety of authentic evidence in order to understand progress toward their identified goals. Regular demonstrations and presentations of learning will enable a clear view of mastery for students, teachers, and parents alike.

The hallmark of learning at Trailblazer will be our focus on the development of the whole child. Social, emotional, and physical wellness will be prioritized along with the academic skills and dispositions that enable success beyond the elementary experience. Digital portfolios will house evidence of whole-child competencies.

The Difference @ Trailblazer Elementary will develop and provide the most meaningful learning experiences that put the personalized needs of each student at the forefront. By redefining success beyond traditional measures, we empower each learner to actively shape their unique outcomes, thereby building a foundation of leadership skills that will last a lifetime.

# The Difference @ Trailblazer Elementary

## Teaching

The art of teaching is revered at Trailblazer. As a school, we invest in the people who inspire, coach, and mentor our learners, reaping rewards for students, teachers, and the community alike. This investment enables our educators to design the most innovative and meaningful learning opportunities for all students.

At Trailblazer, we believe that all staff members are educators. We will reimagine human capital to ensure learners have access to “best fit” human resources at point of need. Our educators will promote enrichment, remediation, and high levels of rigor for each student on a daily basis. In addition to those on the staff, we will collaborate with experts in the local community and around the globe.

We will know our learners through a wide range of whole-child data that informs planning, delivery methods, and personalized pathways based on individual needs. A blended learning model will enable our educators to transform the classroom from a place to sit and receive instruction to one where learners share ideas, build team capacity, and leverage individual talents. Mentors, coaches, and guest speakers will be accessible through digital communication, face-to-face meetings, and virtual field expeditions to relevant locations.

Trailblazer will establish flexible learning environments supported by the allocation of resources that empower personalization and innovative practice. Anytime, anyplace access to learning will enable us to engage our stakeholders outside of the traditional school day. Interactive lesson plans, personalized pathways, and student portfolios will be available to students, educators, and parents through our learning platform.

Empowering our educators to design the most dynamic learning experiences promotes student success while fostering personal growth. This success, along with unprecedented levels of educator satisfaction, will establish The Difference @ Trailblazer Elementary as the most coveted destination for the highest quality educators from across the country.

# The Difference @ Trailblazer Elementary

## Leadership

The Difference @ Trailblazer Elementary believes that leadership reaches far beyond instructional knowledge. Our leaders are forward-thinking masters of culture, academics, and community engagement. At Trailblazer, leadership is not defined by title or position, but rather by actions. We will leverage educators, community members, and students through a shared leadership model.

To facilitate the implementation of our vision, leaders at Trailblazer will model, encourage, and cultivate responsible innovation. Our leaders will prioritize their work to reflect the beliefs and values of our school. Trailblazer's strategic plan will serve as the guiding document for decision making, resource allocation, and hiring through the utilization of a wide range of evidence and data from within and beyond the school around the effectiveness of personalization.

To further inspire and share best practices, our leaders will communicate the vision as the work of the school. Regular communications, both internally and externally, will provide our stakeholders a clear view of innovative practices at Trailblazer. Beyond communication, Trailblazer will engage in regular empathy-building activities. Feedback structures will enable unprecedented engagement and responsiveness to the needs of our stakeholders.

We will reimagine time to better serve the needs of our community. Schedules for learning activities, parent meetings, special events, and conferences will serve the common goals of our educators, students, and families.

A commitment to actively leading innovation, engagement, and the development of leaders throughout our community will drive Trailblazer's continued evolution and success as the standard bearer of next generation learning.

# The Difference @ Trailblazer Elementary

## Professional Learning

A system of personalized professional learning values the specific needs of each educator at Trailblazer while ensuring that transformative practices are widespread, effective, and evident in all learning opportunities.

To further support personalized professional learning at Trailblazer, there will be regular, comprehensive, and systematic audits of teaching skills and needs in relation to the strategic plan. An awareness of strengths, areas for development, preferred modes of learning, optimal work/productivity time(s), and favored learning styles will assist each staff member to craft their own personal learning plan and realize growth.

Flexible scheduling will support a wide variety of professional learning opportunities. Experiences will be consistent, on demand, individualized, and collaborative. Face-to-face engagements, online modules, and blended options will all be utilized. Leadership will create time for embedded professional learning, professional learning communities, and collaborative planning.

Trailblazer will leverage close working relationships with district experts, consultants, and community partners to enable multiple entry points. Professional learning will include coaching, ongoing in-class support, and the identification of new pedagogical tools and approaches. Educators will have the opportunity to collaborate with industry leaders at conferences, workshops, competitions, meetings, and externships to gain cutting edge information that will support personalized learning in the classroom.

The Difference @ Trailblazer Elementary values our educators through an ongoing investment in their continued development. By utilizing a personalized approach to professional learning, educators at Trailblazer are empowered to hone and advance their skills, continuing to prove themselves as the leaders of innovative teaching and learning.

# The Difference @ Trailblazer Elementary

## Wider Community

In a time when neighborhoods have grown further apart, The Difference @ Trailblazer Elementary continues to be a true community school. Our students, educators, parents, surrounding businesses, and community-focused organizations are the lifeblood of our innovative work.

To enhance our model of learning, Trailblazer will build critical partnerships with local, regional, and national businesses; community and civic organizations; and post-secondary institutions. These collaborations will promote rich learning experiences through volunteering, internships, and apprenticeships while providing a variety of supporting resources. Partnerships will enable the Trailblazer community to raise awareness, empower community voice, and design solutions to issues both locally and globally.

Our school will serve as the community hub for learning with outreach branches to higher education, businesses, and civic organizations. Through this approach, learning opportunities outside of the traditional school day and year will be developed. Before and after school programs will provide assistance to working parents, and extend the school day with enriching experiences.

There will be regular, frequent communication with the wider community in regard to personalized learning through a variety of media including social networking, video, email, blogs, and tweets. We will actively and regularly seek out and utilize the values, wisdom, and expertise of parents and community members to support college and career readiness for all students.

The Difference @ Trailblazer Elementary believes that the fostering of innovative schools goes hand in hand with positive community development. Through the collaborative design of meaningful experiences, we will enable our learners to not only contribute locally today, but to lead positive community development on a global scale in the near future.