

KIPP DC:

Vision for Teaching Excellence



Teaching Excellence is the foundation of student success. KIPP DC's Vision for Teaching Excellence is our staff's north star as we work to ensure students develop the knowledge, skills, & confidence to become Washington, DC's next generation of leaders.

CONTENT KNOWLEDGE

Teachers at KIPP DC are experts in their content areas and display an exemplary ability to build understanding and interest in students at multiple ability levels. Teachers use their knowledge of content and child development to plan for and internalize lesson material, deliver content clearly and make it engaging, joyous and inspiring for all learners. Teachers anticipate student misconceptions and misunderstandings and successfully navigate these challenges during lesson delivery. Teachers articulate the “why” behind the content in order to support the development of students’ critical thinking skills. Teachers connect content across disciplines and to real life and use their own content mastery to push students to carry the mental load in thinking deeply about academic content.

INSTRUCTIONAL RESPONSIVENESS

Teachers at KIPP DC have a clear vision for students to achieve and exceed grade-level mastery. Teachers use data to engage in a deliberate cycle of internalization, planning, delivery, questioning, feedback and reflection to move student mastery forward in academic and socio-emotional learning. Teachers are aware of how all students are performing, using a variety of grade-level benchmarks and are able to adapt and change content, process, and product to meet the needs of their students and their learning differences.

CARE OF STUDENTS AND CLASSROOM CULTURE

Teachers at KIPP DC create culturally responsive learning environments that cultivate a sense of belonging. Teachers set a joyful and authentic tone and build loving relationships so that each student and family feels welcome, valued, respected and known as individuals. Teachers optimize learning time by having clearly defined, predictable routines and organized and intentional classrooms. Teachers encourage student voice, promote independent thinking and empower students to take risks academically and socially. Teachers affirm, appreciate and celebrate the racial and cultural identities of students and work to build students’ sense of pride in themselves and their community. Teachers collaborate with families and empower students to work towards ambitious academic and social-emotional learning goals that set students up to be college and career ready.

TEACHER LEADERSHIP

Teachers at KIPP DC are continuous learners and seek out feedback and development opportunities while also being self-reflective about their own practice. Teachers commit to partnering with all school and community stakeholders to promote student learning. Teachers apply flexibility and a problem-solving approach to persist through challenges. Teachers have a deep and growing understanding of their own identity, mindsets, and biases and use this insight to inform their teaching and professional relationships.