



# Cultivating the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Mind

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# Education: what's the point?

*We are living in a world and at a pitch of crisis that put an ultimate premium on sheer brainpower - fully developed and unstintingly applied. We dare not waste it; we dare not misapply it; we dare not be satisfied with standards of mediocrity. This is the challenge to American education and we have no time to lose.*

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*Richard Nixon 1960*

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# Education: what's the point?

To maximize each student's capacity to contribute optimally to economic development and growth

To enable each student to live a live a happy and successful life composed of valuable personal relationships, projects, experiences, and enjoyments, in which he or she experiences the fulfillment that comes from developing and exercising complex skills, responsibility, wit and humanity, and treats others well.

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# What does a school look like?



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Canadian Prison



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Canadian Prison



Ohio Public Elementary School

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# A happy and successful personal life...

The ability to make and act on one's own independent judgments about matters of importance and make those judgments well

The ability to participate effectively in the economy

The ability to have good intimate, mutually loving, relationships

Responsible and reasonable participation in political decisionmaking

Emotional openness, generosity, and kindness in one's relationships with others (intimates and strangers)



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# Context counts

Culture

Time

Position

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# The 21<sup>st</sup> century mind: labor

Specific knowledge and skills (discipline)

\*Ability to address unforeseen problems with diverse strategies (synthesis and creativity)

\*Ability to concentrate singlemindedly on an unwelcome activity for more than 30 minutes at a time

\*Ability to coordinate with others

\*Empathy, honesty, capacity to take responsibility for one's decisions, "leadership"

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# The 21<sup>st</sup> century mind: politics

Understanding of system, knowledge about political issues, ability to scrutinize factual claims carefully (eg, understanding of basic statistics and social science methods)...

\* Humility, empathy, disposition to moderate self sacrifice, ability to recognize when one's interests are less important (and when they are more important) than those of others...

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# The 21<sup>st</sup> century mind: personal happiness and success

\*Balance of work with life

\*Emotional openness and risk taking, trust

\*Kindness

Knowledge about what works

(But finances, family relationships, community and friends, health, work, personal freedom and personal values seem constantly valuable across time and space)

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# Standards and Testing: what's the point?

To evaluate schools and teachers and hold them accountable for students learning; and to sort students for employers and colleges (or maybe just for fun).

To direct instructional efforts and create an infrastructure which helps “teachers figure out the knowledge and skills their students should have so that teachers can build the best lessons and environments for their classrooms”  
(Common Core Standards FAQ)

How?

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# How we learn to do something

Find others who do it well

Watch

Reflect

Mimic

Get feedback

Watch more

Reflect more

Mimic more.....

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How do you find the person who does it  
well?

Guitarist

Teacher

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# Three worries about the new standards

Noncognitive learning

Capacity for change in schools

The least advantaged 20% (or so)



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# Noncognitive Learning

4 (or 5) dimensions of learning:

Cognitive

Physical

Emotional

Moral

(Spiritual?)

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# Why don't standards give due weight to emotional and moral learning?

Cultural bias toward cognitive

Less known about emotional and moral

*Even less* known about how to test emotional and moral

*Less still* known about how to teach emotional and moral

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# KIPP Report Card

Self control: school work

Self control: interpersonal

Curiosity

Social Intelligence

Gratitude

Optimism

Zest

Grit

Total: 24 items, scale of 1 to 5

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# Schools

## The Matrix

47 standards (ACT Career and College Readiness, Twenty First Century Skills, Just 4 School District Social and Emotional Learning)

256 classes

Over 12000 cells

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# The least advantaged

Career and college readiness is misleading for those who will not have careers or college

Ability to deal with the stress of routine tasks, being subject to close control, being subject to arbitrary use of power, high levels of uncertainty. Disposition to advance one's own interests calibrated to opportunities as they arise



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# Responsibility, wit and humanity

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Richard Nixon, 1970