

## Gill-Montague Regional School District -- *Building Bridges to Success*

### Our Vision

A community that empowers every student for continuous learning, active citizenship, and personal fulfillment

### Our Mission

Challenging and supporting every student to succeed through strong leadership, community engagement, and excellent teaching

### Our Core Values

**Persistence:** Smart is something you become, not something you are

**Integrity:** Doing the right thing, even when no one is looking

**Empathy:** Being able and willing to understand another's perspective

**Continuous Learning:** Constantly expanding one's understanding

### Our Core Beliefs

1. All students are capable of learning at high levels.
2. Successful students and educators need 21st century skills, including the ability to think critically, solve problems, communicate effectively, and collaborate.
3. Student success is best demonstrated through the authentic application of knowledge and skills in meaningful ways.
4. Education for the whole student requires development of the child's academic, social, physical, and emotional well-being.
5. Everyone deserves to learn in a safe and supportive learning environment in which all members of the school community demonstrate respect for each other.
6. Effective schools are places where adults, as well as students, learn together.
7. Schools must partner with parents and families for students to succeed.
8. Public education is the primary means we have for cultivating democracy and achieving social justice.

*(Credit to Belmont PS for several of these ideas)*

### Our Learning Principles

1. Learners construct their own meaning by building upon prior knowledge.
2. Understanding occurs through a process of transference--the application of learning in new contexts.
3. Understanding is individualized—it occurs at a pace and through processes unique to each learner.
4. The learner needs to see purpose and value in the learning.
5. Learners need to be invested in the learning process--an element of choice should exist.
6. Learning requires clear goals, timely feedback, and appropriate scaffolding.
7. Learning occurs in a social context—it takes place through the learner's interactions and communication with others.
8. A safe and supportive learning environment is necessary for lasting learning to occur.