

# Great Oaks Academy

## Mission and Vision Statement Policy No. 104

### I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a clear statement of the purpose for which the school district of Great Oaks Academy exists.

### II. Name of the School District

Pursuant to statute, the official name of the school district is Great Oaks Academy Charter School District No. 4268.

- A. The school district is often referred to by other informal names. In order to avoid confusion and to encourage consistency in school district letterheads, signage, publications and other materials, the school board intends to establish a uniform name for the school district.
- B. In official communications, the school district shall be referred to as Charter School District No. 4268 but inadvertent failure to use the correct name shall not invalidate any legal proceeding or matter or affect the validity of any document.

### III. Purpose of Great Oaks Academy

Great Oaks Academy is a tuition-free, Classical charter school built on the pillars of Rigor, Literature, Wonder, and Virtue.

### IV. Mission

The mission of Great Oaks Academy is to cultivate the hearts and minds of our students through a classical, liberal arts education with instruction that is rigorous, literature-rich, wondrous, and virtuous in a disciplined and engaging environment.

### V. Pillars

The Four Pillars of Great Oaks Academy are: Literature, Rigor, Virtue and Wonder.

#### A. Rigor

1. Rigor doesn't just mean 'hard', although our curriculum is challenging. It means meeting students where they are, recognizing and celebrating their potential, and challenging them to be and do things they didn't know they could achieve. It means helping each student become the best version of his or herself.

#### B. Virtue

1. What do we mean by virtue? We believe that character development is as important as academics. Education isn't just about what you know, it's about the person you become. We teach universal virtues like respect, perseverance, honor and excellence to help our students become the best people they can be.

#### a) The Five Cardinal Virtues of Great Oaks Academy:

- (1) Compassion
- (2) Fortitude
- (3) Gratitude
- (4) Temperance
- (5) Wisdom

#### C. Literature

1. Why literature? Because stories are memorable. They help us understand not just facts and cultures and different time periods, but they inspire us to develop character. The world of Classical literature is rich and diverse and filled with beautiful language, men and women of honor and distinction, heartache, victory and joy. Great stories help us understand human nature, ourselves, and each other.

D. Wonder

1. Wonder is the innate sense in every child that school is a place of adventure and excitement, that learning is fun, and that the natural world is full of new things to explore. Our curriculum is designed to encourage this sense of wonder, with hands-on activities, immersive lessons, and plenty of time spent out of doors.

VI. Vision

Our vision is to graduate young adults who:

- A. Are fully prepared for the rigors of college and career
- B. Value truth, beauty, and goodness
- C. Possess a lifelong passion for learning
- D. Are active participants in their communities
- E. Recognize the value of their contributions.

VII. Review

- A. The Board of Directors will recite the mission and vision statements during each meeting or workshop.
- B. The Board of Directors may review Great Oaks Academy's mission statement to ensure that it aligns with the vision statement. This review will be done during the charter contract renewal process.

**Legal References:**

Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process for Reviewing Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement)

Minn. Rule Parts 3501.0010-3501.0180

Minn. Rule Parts 3501.0200-3501.0270

Minn. Stat. § 123A.55 (Classes, Number)

**Cross References:**