

The Power of Purpose: Inspiring Students' Character and Best Work

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Today's Plan

Students with a clear sense of positive purpose and skills to enact it perform better academically and socially.

Learn to integrate purpose into all subject areas to promote student success.

A person is a person through
other
persons.
–Bantu



The Power of Purpose

Stanford University psychologist William Damon (2003, p. 9) defines noble purpose as a:

“stable and generalized intention to accomplish something that is at once meaningful to the self and of positive consequence to the world beyond the self”

2 Minute Reflection and Pair-Share:

What is your purpose in being an Educator?

The Nature of Purpose

When goals go, meaning goes. When meaning goes, purpose goes. When purpose goes, life goes dead in our hands.

Carl Jung

We don't live for happiness, we live for holiness... All human beings seek to lead lives not just of pleasure, but of purpose, righteousness, and virtue.

David Brooks

Many persons have a wrong idea of what constitutes true happiness. It is not attained through self-gratification but through fidelity to a worthy purpose.

Helen Keller

What is a MOSAIC Approach?

MOSAIC

*Mastering Our Skills And Inspiring
Character*

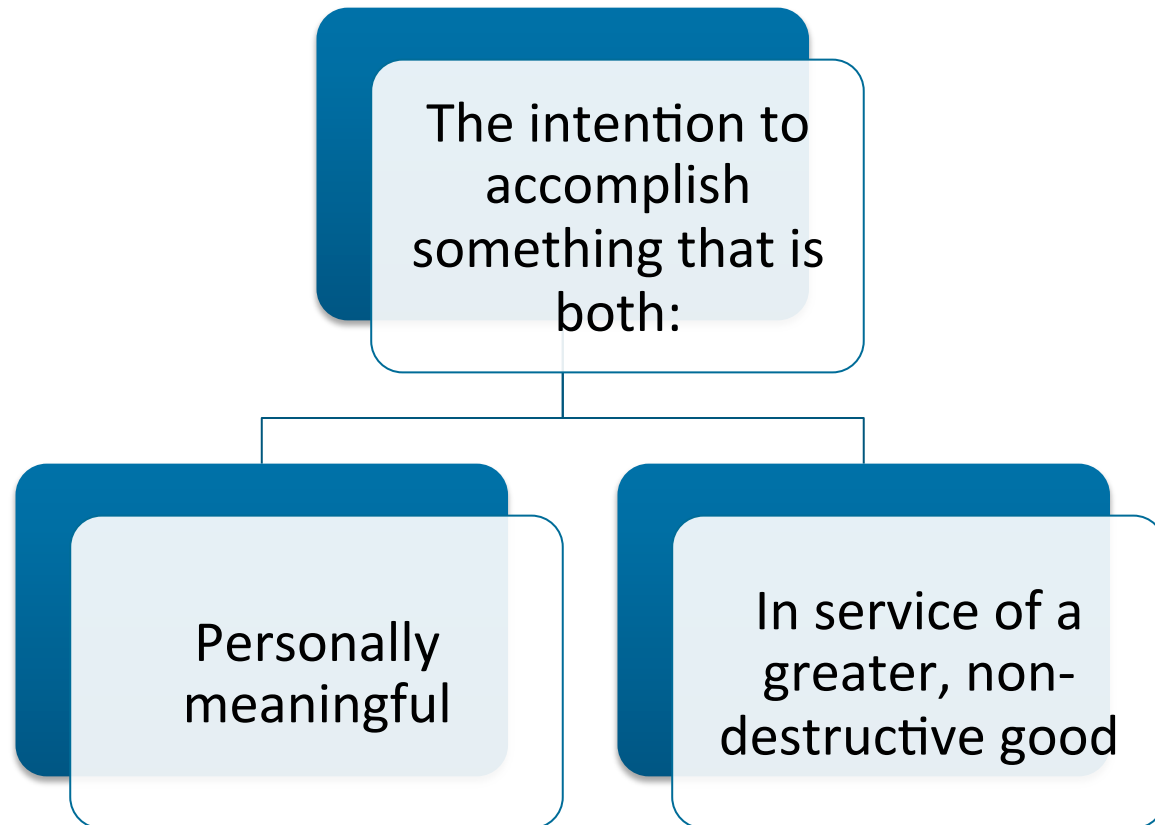


Character Virtues Supporting Noble Purpose

- 1) Compassionate Forgiveness
and Gratitude
- 2) Constructive Creativity
- 3) Helpful Generosity
- 4) Optimistic Future-Mindedness
- 5) Responsible Diligence



Positive (Noble) Purpose



Integration of Social-Emotional Skills

1. Emotion Regulation
2. Communication
3. Empathy
4. Social Problem Solving



Purpose and Self-Awareness: Part of a Moral Compass

- Self-awareness- finding your special task, what it is that allows you to excel.
- Self-awareness- recognizing our own feelings and using them as a guide to our actions
- Self-awareness- recognizing the achievements of yourself and also of others, positive recognition and encouragement for small steps in yourself and others as well, because you know its importance.

Purpose and Self-Awareness

- YES-No-Maybe on purpose quotes:
- *My students could benefit from an approach that explicitly cultivates their own purpose.*

Purpose and Self-Awareness

- YES-No-Maybe on purpose quotes:
- *My students could benefit from an approach that explicitly cultivates their own purpose.*
- *I have a strong sense of purpose in my current job.*

The Paths to Purpose: Service and Finding a Calling

Everyone can be great because everyone can serve.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

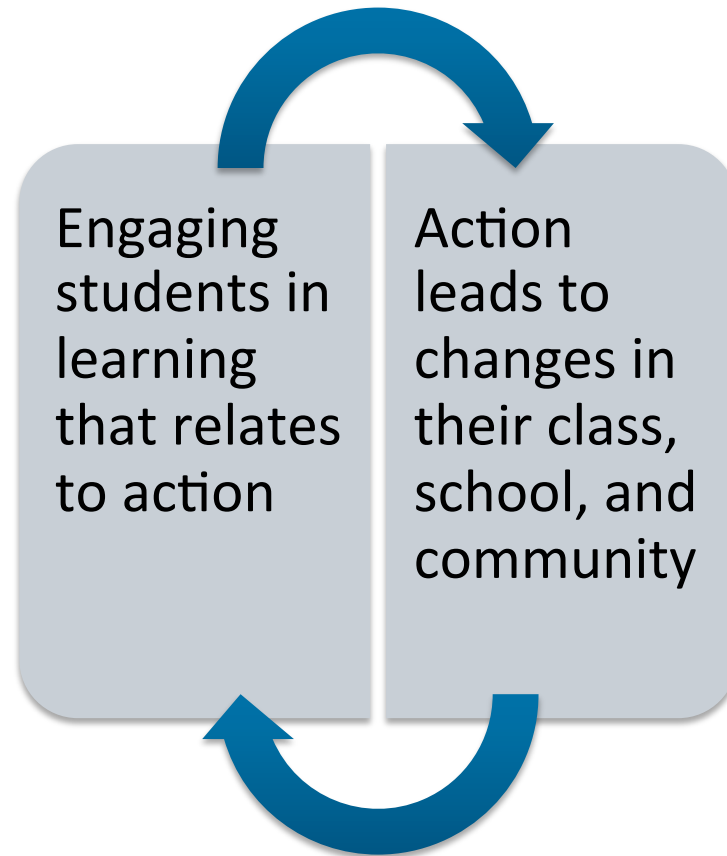
One thing I know: The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve.

Albert Schweitzer

It did not really matter what we expected from life, but rather what life expected of us.

Viktor Frankl

Action-Focused Pedagogy



Action-Focused Pedagogy Throughout MOSAIC

- Experiential exercises
 - Engaging Media (Videos, Games, Audio recordings)
 - Take a Position (Friendly Debates, Yes-No-Maybe)
 - Connect to Lived Experiences (Think-Pair-Share, MOSAIC Circles)
- Structures for generalization
 - School-Community Action Series (i-Messages, BEST, PLAN)
 - “Throughline”

Service Learning for Helpful Generosity, Empathy, Communication, and Problem Solving

- Preparation
- Action
- Reflection
- Demonstration

- Formal Evaluation
- Celebration

College, Career, Community, & Life Ready

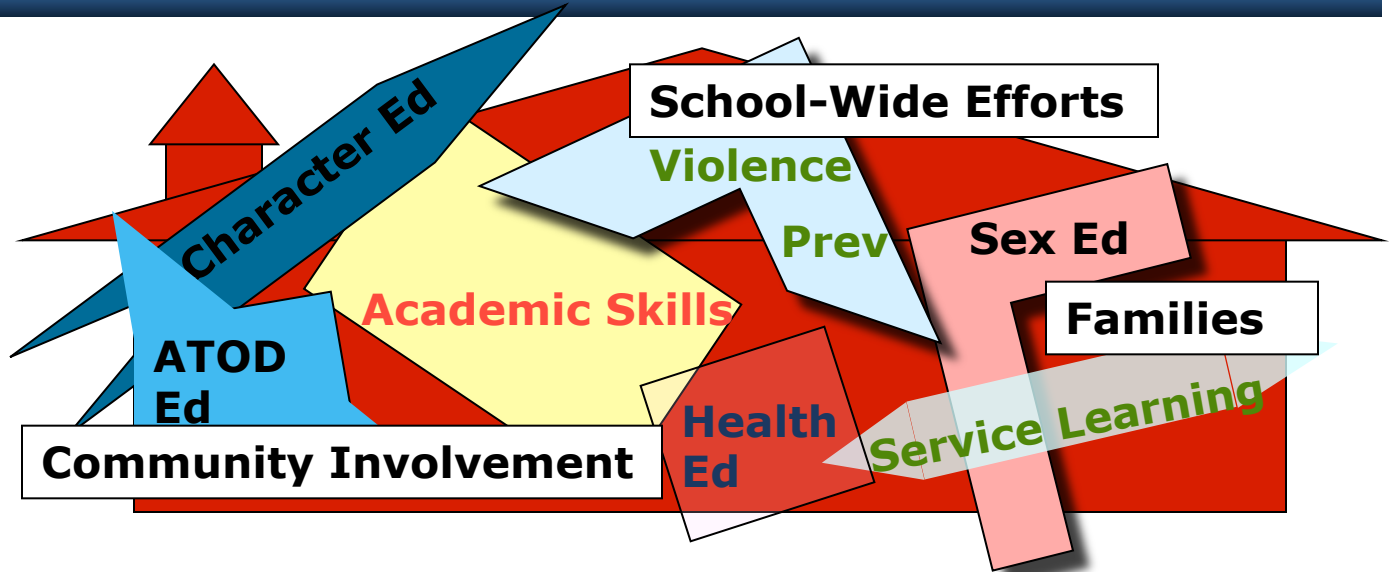


What happens
between
← here and
here? →

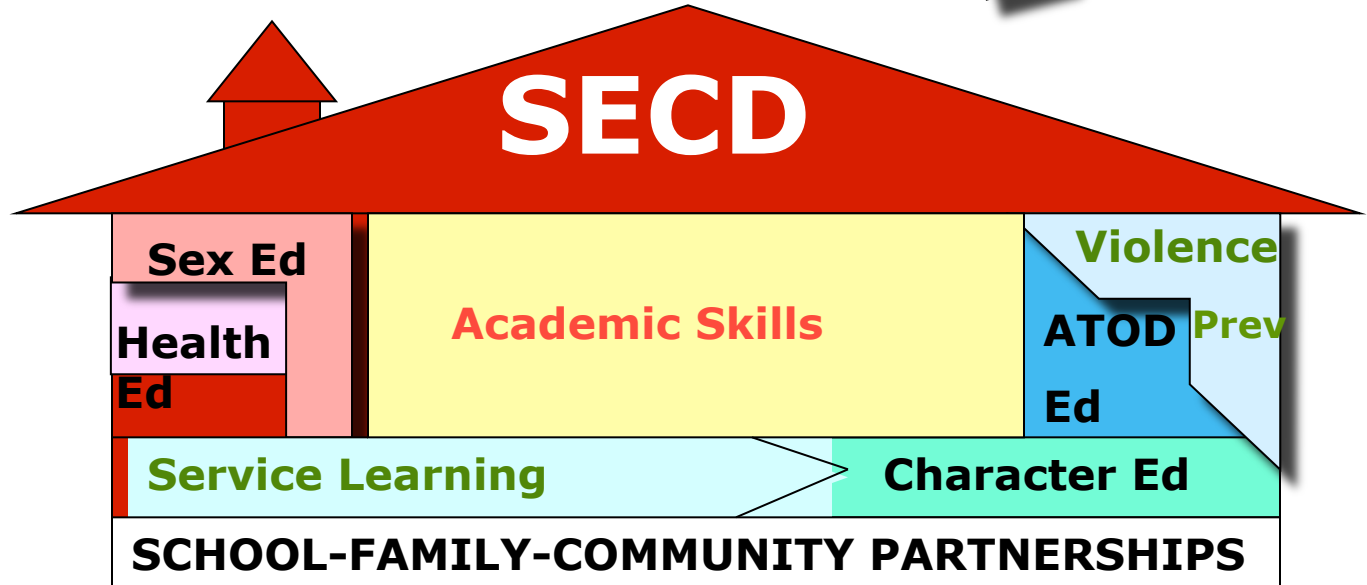


Social-Emotional and Character Development (SECD): *A Coordinated Framework Provides Synergy*

**A Jumbled
and
Fragmented
Schoolhouse**



**A School of
Social-
Emotional &
Character
Competence**



If You Had a Magic Wand, What Values Would You Wish Your Children Would Internalize Forever?

- Friendship
- Peace
- Wisdom
- Beauty
- Long Life
- Riches
- Popularity
- Family

It's Harder Than We Think

- **Preparation for College Completion“+”**

Ready, Willing, and Able— Savitz-Romer & Bouffard

Closing the Revolving Door— Rutgers Collaborative Center

Best Practices to Promote Student Voice and Opportunities to Activate Positive Purpose

- Students need to be contributors to their schools and schools should teach students how to represent each other and how to be represented within a democratic structure.
- Students need systematic opportunities to play a role in service opportunities and school decision making, especially around problems that affect them— HIB, substance abuse, academic cheating, cyberbullying, gangs.
- Buddying and mentoring are for everyone.
- Essential preparation for having a voice includes SEL skill development and practice.

Identify Student's Broad Priority/Value

- What is one rule that you believe is important to live your life by, that gives your life meaning and purpose?
- If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?
- Is there some situation or place that you think is unfair/makes you upset/you can't stand?
- If we lived in a perfect world, how would people behave differently than they do now?

Translate Into Small, Time-Limited Goal(s): Essence of Growth Mindset

- Make clear connections between goal and larger value
- Phrase in positive terms
 - (What you will do, not what you won't)
- Make *performance-based*, rather than *outcome-based*
- SMART: Specific, Measurable, Active, Realistic, Time-Framed

Plan Specific Steps

- ***What*** are you going to do?
- ***Where*** are you going to do it?
- ***When*** are you going to do it?
- ***Who*** is involved?
- ***How*** are you going to do it?

Plan Specific Steps (cont' d)

- Some useful questions in creating steps:
 - What skills does the student need to achieve this?
 - What information and knowledge does the student need?
 - What help, assistance, or collaboration from other people does the student need?
 - What resources does the student need?
 - In what setting will they accomplish their goal?

Anticipate Potential Obstacles

- If the goal hasn't already been achieved, there's a reason...
- Some helpful questions:
 - What makes it tough for you to do this now?
 - What kinds of problems might happen when you try to do this step?
- Tip for adolescents: Depersonalize
 - What do you think gets in the way of people doing [this goal] all the time?

Engage in Problem-Solving

- Let the student generate as many solutions as possible
 - Offer ridiculous solutions
- Discuss the solutions' effectiveness/feasibility
- Let the student choose the best option or combination of options
- Write down solutions and amend the steps to the goal, if necessary

Laws of Life Contract



I, _____, pledge to live my life by the law of



Over the next few months, I plan to live out my Law of Life by accomplishing these specific goals:

.....
Goal 1: _____

In order to achieve this goal, I will go through the following steps:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

I plan to have achieved this goal by:

<i>Problems I might face in reaching my goal:</i>	<i>How I plan to solve them:</i>

Help Students
Create
Contracts That
Enhance Sense
of Positive
Purpose

Work your own contract ...

Laws of Life Contract



I, _____, *pledge to live my life by the law of*



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_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

I plan to have achieved this goal by:

<i>Problems I might face in reaching my goal:</i>	<i>How I plan to solve them:</i>

- ▶ Pair up with someone else in the audience
- ▶ Identify some education or career-related goal to work on
- ▶ Work through the steps with each other!
- ▶ Identify a “buddy” to support you, ongoing

Goal 2: _____

In order to achieve this goal, I will go through the following steps:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

I plan to have achieved this goal by:

<i>Problems I might face in reaching my goal:</i>	<i>How I plan to solve them:</i>

Signed: _____ *Date:* _____

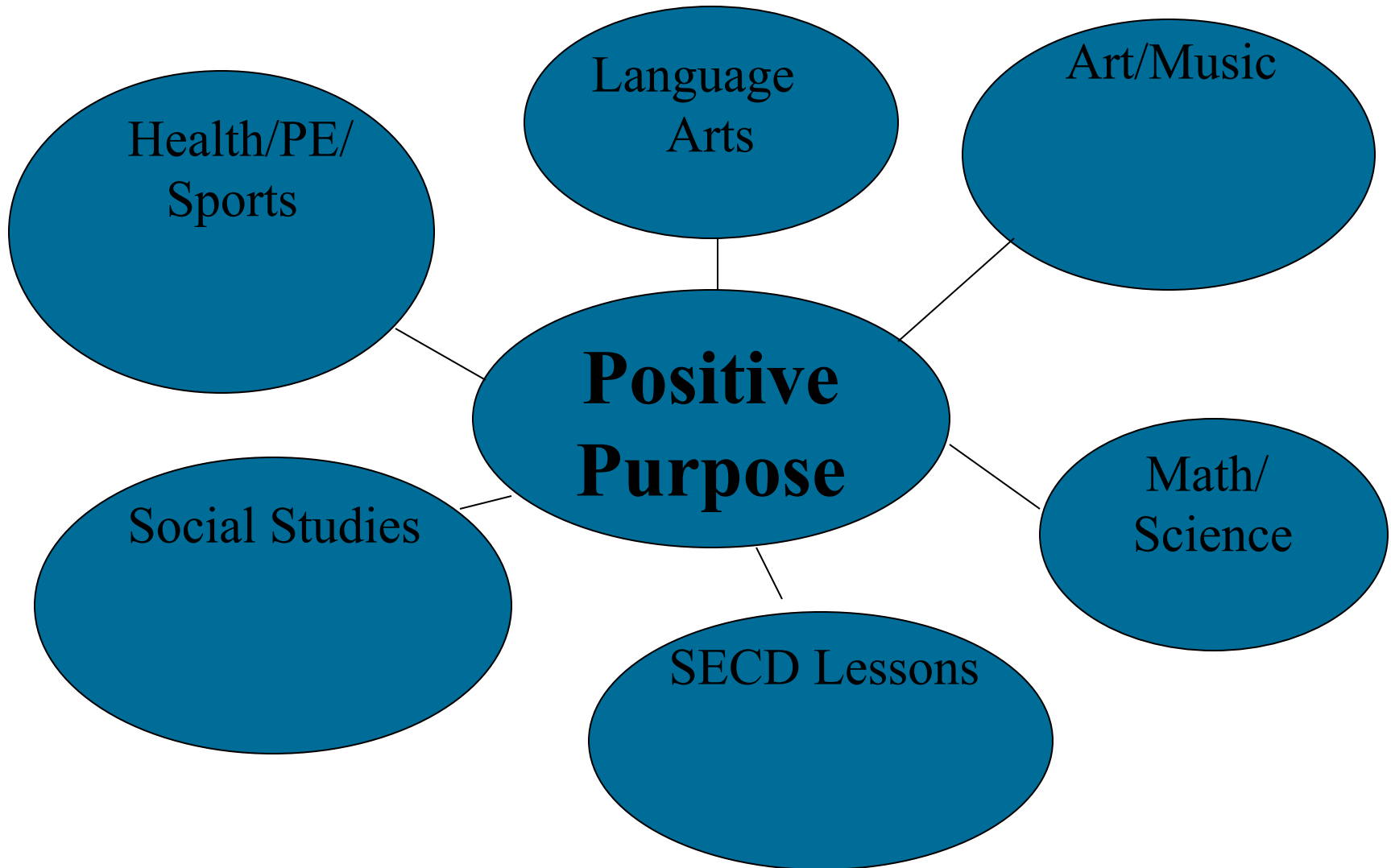
Prompts to Think and Write About Purpose

- (1) “Write about a personal experience where you feel that something you did made a difference” (e.g. family, friends, school, community, or natural environment).
- (2) “Describe how these experiences helped give you a sense of purpose.”
- (3) “How will you continue working toward this purpose?”

Prompts to Think and Write About Purpose

- (1) “Write about how you have observed someone (you may or may not know personally) exhibit noble characteristics.”
- (2) “Describe how these actions relate to this person’s larger mission (or purpose) in life.”

Integration of Purpose into Academics: Fill in the Blanks





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