Thinking about Thinking
Learning about Learning
Knowing about Knowing

Defining the Academic Program at Eaton Arrowsmith
An Eye Towards Transition

- What does a successful transition look like?

- What skills, habits and mindsets do students need to become successful, life-long learners?

- How can we prepare students for failure/setbacks?
The academic program at Eaton Arrowsmith is designed to complement the cognitive program and strengthen connections between previously learned skills and concepts while building the capacity for future, life-long learning.
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Building the capacity for future, life-long learning
Safety/Sensory Needs

First and foremost, students need to feel physically and emotionally safe, accepted and loved. Depending on need, this may take time.

- Attachment (Neufeld)
- Model Language of Nonviolent Communication (NVC)
- Foster Mindfulness
  - executive functioning
Social/Emotional Awareness

Our aim is provide students with the vocabulary and awareness needed to actively engage and effectively communicate in their social worlds.

- Social Thinking (Winner)
- Encouraging flexible thinking
- Self Awareness
  - Self advocacy using NVC framework
  - Mindfulness
Mindset and Character Strengths

With an eye towards transition, mindset and character strengths lay the foundation for personal growth and learning.

- Mindset (Dweck, Boler)
- The Power of Yet (Dweck)
- Harnessing the power of failure

*Students with a growth mindset are not immune to failure – they are, however, better equipped to redirect their thinking after making a mistake (Moser et. al., 2011).*
Curricular Content

As students increase their cognitive capacities and develop stronger learning skills, they are more receptive to engage in curricular content.

- Foundational content
- Develop conceptual, procedural and factual understanding
- Depth and breadth
- Literacy and Numeracy

Our aim is to meet the students at their current level of understanding and lead them along a learning path to an area of deeper, wider and more connected understanding.
Curricular Competencies

Curricular competencies include meta-cognitive strategies that encourage students to think about their own thinking and learning.

- Language of thinking about thinking (Gear)
  - Connect, visualize, infer, question and transform
- Enhance understanding of curricular content
- Develop thoughtful, intentional and meaningful learners
Building the capacity for future, life-long learning
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