

## School Culture

### **1. Describe the culture or ethos of the proposed school and how this culture or ethos will promote a positive academic environment and reinforce student intellectual and social development.**

The name of the school has a possessive connotation in that the school belongs to the students. In the name (Vine's), the Vines are the children and the school belongs to them. It is evident that when the student feel apart or have ownership of something, they take more responsibility and care for it and its success. Students will be encouraged to have a sense of ownership about their school and its reputation communally, locally and nationally. Students will participate in school spirit initiatives and school pride activities. The school will lend itself to parents and the community to support students and their initiatives.

### **2. Explain the systems, practices, and traditions that the School Leader and staff will implement to foster this culture for students, teachers, administrators, and parents, starting from the first day of school. (Note You will be asked to describe your discipline policy in the next section).**

Everyone involved in VPS will be held accountable to the same social standard. School Teachers, & Administrators will be responsible for daily modeling the code of conduct for VPS students and actively representing the school's mission statement thereby affording the ability to enforce said standards in the student population. Those visiting VPS will be advised upon entry of our school the expected standard of conduct while they are visiting with us. Teachers and administrators will be required to actively participate in the school's social and educational activities with students. They will be encouraged to engage students in all areas of the school, allowing the students to identify with them inside and out of the classroom.

### **3. Describe the key elements of the school's bullying prevention and anti-hazing policies. Explain how the school will develop this culture and use scientifically researched-based practices for students, educators, administrators, and parents starting from the first day of school. Resources to ensure compliance with state requirements are available at:**

**<http://www.stopbullying.gov/laws/delaware.html>**

Major elements that will contribute to the prevention of bullying and hazing will be the education of student during orientation assemblies and class gatherings, discreet reporting procedures, specification of prohibited behavior and progressive punitive sanctions. Other elements shall include a provision for ongoing professional development to build the skills of all staff members, including, but not limited to: educators; administrators; school nurses; cafeteria workers; custodians; bus drivers; athletic coaches; and advisors to extracurricular activities and paraprofessionals; to prevent, identify and respond to bullying. The student code of conduct will address the totality of this policy and adhere to the standards set forth in Delaware Code Title 14.

**4. Explain how the school culture will serve and support students with special needs, including students receiving special education services, English Language Learners, homeless and migrant students, and any other students at-risk of academic failure.**

VPS staff will ensure that all students have the opportunity to participate in all aspects of VPS's social and academic culture. A conscious effort will be made to make activities affordable for all students. Our building and grounds will be accessible to those students with special needs and when offsite school administrators and teachers will ensure that accommodations have been made to address students' needs. Teachers will work together as a team sharing student information via ITracker & ESchool Plus. Teachers will be able to identify struggling students and develop a plan to address student's educational needs. Teachers will be required to use all resources afforded to them including but not limited to the school's IS Team. ELL students will complete The Home Language Survey and Wide App to establish student's English Proficiency Levels. In addition, they will have access to a contracted translator. Parents will be included in all support planning prior to and including if necessary an IEP Plan to support students educational advancement.