ETHICS MIRROR COMPONENTS

THE ADINKRA SYMBOL ETHICS MIRROR

The Adinkra Symbol Ethics Mirror, referred to simply as the Ethics Mirror, is the common thread that binds all our programs, defines our culture and the vision we wish to promote as foundational elements of a vibrant citizen-sector. The Adinkra Symbols, which come from Ghana, comprise the universal values we advance through our unique ethics, character and leadership development approach. The universal values set forth by Ethics Mirror intersect with every aspect of human endeavor, including academics, business, sports and more.

ADINKRA SYMBOL CORE VALUES + ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

NNKONSONKONSON “CHAIN LINK”

This symbol is a reminder to contribute to the community and that in unity lies strength. You will explore what role the community plays in your life and your role in the community; and those characteristics, institutions, and emotions which bind us as human beings. Researching the developments made by people across space, time, and cultures, is of particular import in expanding this discussion.

• How do I contribute to the community?
• How do I create a sense of community that encourages responsible citizenship and understanding of the world around me?
• How can I build trust and respect across communities?

BOA ME NA ME MMOA WO “HELP ME AND LET ME HELP YOU”

This symbol represents cooperation and interdependence. Your emphasis will center on intra-community forms of cooperation and development. Inter-community cooperation and interdependence will be explored and will interweave concepts of institutions, culture, and citizenship within the context of human relations.

• How do we live in relationship to others?
• How can I help others?
• How can I allow others to help me?
• How can I treat others fairly?

ASASE YE DURU “THE EARTH HAS WEIGHT”

This symbol represents the importance of the Earth in sustaining life. This unit will focus on the Earth that we all share. You will develop a sense of a connection with the natural world. This exploration will include the interdependence of life systems, including human beings, with the Earth and their responsibility in sustaining it.

• Where do we live?
• What are our responsibilities to the Earth?
• How can I help sustain natural resources?
• How do other communities view the Earth?
**AKOMA  “THE HEART”**

This symbol of patience and tolerance; a keystone concept in the character development framework. You will examine inter-personal concepts as well as inter-cultural manifestations of tolerance. Central to either exploration is the need to resolve conflicts peacefully, requiring understanding, patience, and integrity.

- How do my actions, thoughts, and words affect others?
- How do I care about people who are different than me?
- How can I resolve conflicts without violence?
- How do I respect others?

**AYA  “FERN”**

This is the symbol of endurance and resourcefulness, key aspects of living complete and healthy lives. You will reflect upon the various forms of resources available to you and learn to value and maintain them. In addition, you will examine perseverance as a positive character trait and as a personal attribute to be developed.

- How do I support my own well being?
- How do I help others live a better life?
- How do I learn best?
- How do I know?
- How do I communicate my understanding?

**AKOFENA  “SWORD OF WAR”**

This symbol of courage, valor, heroism stresses how to initiate change. You will explore the multiple ways in which courage manifests itself in life experiences. As you build a more inclusive and comprehensive definition of courage, you will incorporate these concepts into your framework for initiating change. In addition, these empowering frameworks will help you to be a more productive and active learner.

- How can I do right when others are doing wrong?
- How do I create a positive value system?
- How do I initiate change?
- How do I display moral courage?

**EMBEDDED UNIVERSAL VOCABULARY** (HIGHLIGHTED ABOVE)

- Community
- Trust
- Respect
- Caring
- Citizenship
- Patience
- Humility
- Perseverance
- Moral Courage
- Inclusive
- Empowerment
- Resourcefulness
- Communication
- Interdependence
- Sustainability
- Cooperation
- Fairness
- Responsibility
THE THOUGHT + ACTION RUBRIC

This rubric represents a transferable 21st century skill-set that promotes the thoughts, actions, behaviors and skills that comprise a model of kinetic empathy necessary for understanding, collaborating on and solving the critical issues of our time. In today’s global community, the competitive climate is intense. As routine tasks become increasingly automated, those wishing to remain competitive in the workforce must become more flexible and creative problem solvers with a keen understanding of approaching a cross-section of cultures.

In order for you, today’s students, to be successful in the competitive environment of today’s global community, your schools must provide you with more than basic skills. It is also important to become proficient at 21st century skills, such as critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, use of media/technology, self-direction, and cross-cultural communication.

**DEVELOP + SHARPEN SKILLS**
- Creativity and Innovation
- Organization and Prioritization
- Problem Solving and Critical Thinking
- Information, technology and communication literacy
- Media Literacy
- Cross-cultural communication

**ENCOURAGE + MODEL BEHAVIORS**
- Leadership and Responsibility
- Productivity and Diligence
- Respect for others (cultural, personal, etc.)
- Self-Direction and Initiative
- Self-Reflection

**INTRODUCE + NURTURE CONCEPTS**
- Civic Literacy and Engagement
- Health Literacy and Value
- Global Community and Awareness
- Environmental Literacy and Stewardship
- Social Entrepreneurship
- Inter-and Trans-disciplinarity

**INFLICT + INFLUENCE ATTITUDES:**
- Social and Cross-cultural Open-mindedness
- Compassion for others
- Flexibility and adaptability
- Internalization of Core Values
- Emotional Literacy and Awareness
- Perseverance and Resilience