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Instructional Vision

Introduction

The Planet is calling upon our consciousness to shift. While there is much to celebrate in the beauty and love that resides on Planet Earth, there is some tending to do. The water, soil, and air are sick. Animals—including men and women—find themselves living in inhospitable and sometimes violent environments. So, tending we must. Education and Evolution are inextricably linked. Wisdom always serves to guide us (with courage) forward into unknown and new—yet promising—territory. Our strength will persevere and grow. With joy and grace, we'll do the work of restoring and rebuilding the planet such that life sustains and thrives. Divine Harmony Temple is starting a school to do just that.

Soul Circle

It all begins with the soul. A soul that resonates with purpose puts a person on a path of contribution. A soul with purpose is always a soul in service. Contribute your heart, kindness, encouragement, and good ideas to—and with—those around you. Tend to your sacred mind, as it is absolutely the most powerful tool in your possession: intend to coalesce your heart and mind to achieve coherence¹. Think positive and encouraging thoughts about yourself and others, yet bring a healthy sense of skepticism and critical thinking to avoid being controlled by fear or confusion.

Your body is your sacred temple. Learn to grow nutritious food to maintain, restore, and build your temple. Knowing energetic first aid to remedy and heal body, mind, and spirit is a powerful step towards connected independence and interdependence. Learn to harness the natural energy of the planet to meet all of your energy needs. Learn the art of water and soil restoration and care. Become the master of your body and mind through focused yet easeful meditation.

A purpose that cannot be distracted—but is rather directed—by an organized, positive, and unified mind inside a fluid and confident body are the kind of boys and girls we need now on this planet. They are Futurists. And that is what Divine Harmony Education builds—Futurists. Futurists use the principles of design to create, so they are also Designers.

When Futurists are focused on contributing their passion and gifts to wo/mankind, plants, and all living things...good things happen. They will shape and contribute to villages defined by like-minded individuals gathered under a common purpose. They will positively influence communities gathered by association. The planet will be uplifted by their collective optimism, knowledge, grit, problem solving capabilities, eloquent communication, loving hearts, and visions.

¹ When the heart & mind achieve coherence, a door opens to oneness and sets the stage for entanglement to emerge.

The Futurists that will emerge from Divine Harmony Education will bring us back to ourselves as we restore the basic principles of dignity, respect, regard, kindness, consideration, and compassion for the planet and all life. They will do it with flare, and with an open, honest, and vulnerable heart. Remember that Futurists are also Warriors & Strategists. They are smart, adept, strategic, and nuanced.

We will be in good hands. Trust this process.

Purpose Statement

We design for people to flourish, participate in public life, and live in harmony with the planet through aligning their souls, minds, and bodies to their hearts and collective imagination.

Statement of Oneness in Equity

While division and separation define much of the current relationships on the planet, it is our cosmic destiny for all life to live in balance and harmony. Regardless of what may appear to separate us—such as nationality, language, ethnicity, race, class, sex, gender, political orientation, religion, or sexual orientation, to name a few—we are united in the most simple and profound ways. All life craves security, shelter, sustenance, love, and belonging. All life craves dignity, and respect. At Divine Harmony Education we design for our cosmic destiny. We are destined to be a planet where everyone (and all life form) belongs and no one is left out. With courage we release defensiveness and heal each other through the profound gift of listening. We acknowledge and stand witness to the harms done to wo/mankind, and with an unwavering commitment to healing and joy, we say enough. We embrace the dignity of all life forms and design to heal all habitats and recommit to stewardship of the land. We are guided by love, and its strength and resolve. Divine Harmony Education fulfills our cosmic destiny to create the conditions for all life form to live in harmony, joy, and enchantment. We are a Destiny Designer School.

Curricular Themes & Creative Expression

Curricular themes are threads that are woven through all subjects and the core curricular goal of aligning soul, mind, and body that motivates Futurists to be of service to village, community, and planet. It's the secret sauce that creates curricular cohesion and unity. Curricular themes come alive in Art, English, Story-telling, Science, Math, Engineering, Martial Art, Technology, and Entrepreneurialism. An emphasis on uncovering their relevance will invite our Designers forward and in, keeping them naturally engaged as they will be inherently motivated and interested in studying all things seen as relevant to them, their peers, and their world.

Unity Consciousness is the wisdom that resides in a profound knowing that all life is interconnected and thus, interdependent. When one thrives, many thrive. As the planets' water, air, and soil are restored, so is all life. As the rainforests breathe in and out, oxygen spreads to nourish all corners and crevices of the planet. Unity Consciousness explores the webbed ecosystem of story, metaphysics, science, psychology, physical movement, and the future of a planet nourished and sustained by a profound knowing and respect for the interconnectedness and interdependence of all life. Designers will achieve an awareness and a knowing that we are one and that the gift of the creator was given to all—a common gift that binds us together.

Prosperity Consciousness activates not only optimism but also a truth that we live in a world of abundance. By design, we are intended to experience bountifulness in health, love, and material wealth. Learning to believe and receive this abundance begins with training the mind to see and believe in the inherent prosperity both seen and unseen. A planetary shift towards prosperity consciousness will reduce pain and activate optimism for health, love, and material wealth for all of wo/mankind.

Communication is both the blood that nourishes life and wellbeing and sometimes the salve that restores understanding or trust. Communication is not only skill, but also, heart based. How do you listen with an open heart, even if it aches? What are the words, tone, and nonverbal cues that convey the meaning you desire? What's the distinction between intent and impact of our communication? All subjects will directly teach effective and eloquent communication, including negotiation strategies. As our Futurists prepare for their leadership roles, effective and eloquent communication is an essential technical and relational skill to master, and master we will.

Independence energizes confidence in our ability to care for self and others. While many are immersed in technological dominant communities, there is comfort in knowing that to survive and thrive, wo/mankind—and most other animals for that matter—simply need clean water, food, shelter, and love. Of course having access to trained healers matters, and learning how to harness the energy available to us by the sun (for example), will support our energy needs and wants. Independence teaches Designers how to be resourceful and confident as they successfully manage meeting their basic needs. Independence produces a fierce embodied confidence necessary for Futurists to do their bold and visionary collective and planetary work.

Law is a tool of creation and protection. And, it's actually not that complicated to learn: men and women have lots of rights, but only if they are expressed, and it's straightforward to learn how to express them. Once you express your rights as a man or a woman, there's an entire lawful court created to support you to uphold your rights and protect yourself from trespass by other men and women. Yes, men and women are from the creator, and your rights are yours to express—you need no permission to be free and safe. We have all the power we need to stop harm by expressing our rights and holding others to account for remedy: It is in fact, the honorable thing to do.

Financial Mastery tells us that money is nothing but an energy and a tool: An extraordinarily powerful tool, yes, so it must be considered and managed with focus, care, and skill. In addition to learning basic accounting, our Designers will learn the five pillars of Financial Mastery: 1) How do you create flows of money; 2) How do you protect money; 3) How do you budget for financial security, independence, and a free life; 4) How do you leverage money and assets to increase money flow; 5) As Financial Mastery is a life long journey, how do you continue to learn about financial mastery and wisdom? The triple combination of our independence, lawful understanding, and

financial mastery curricular themes will foster strength, imagination, boldness, and confidence.

Entrepreneurism takes initiative to solve both local and global problems. It requires vision, creativity, grit, risk, collaboration, and resourcefulness. This curricular theme emphasizes solving problems faced by our local, regional, and national communities as well as the planet. Project based learning provides the context to develop executive function, problem solving, communication, and collaboration—all skills essential for entrepreneurship. Learning how to write a business plan, read financial statements, and inspire others to join you and your vision are powerful skills embedded in this crucial curricular theme.

Our Planet is home. And, it needs tending. Just as breathing is automatic (and essential), so will be our attention towards our Planet. Learning about our planet, planetary system, and galaxy will be so immersed throughout all coursework that our planet will be a common point of departure to ponder purpose, contribution, transformation, coursework, and dreams. Designers will learn about planetary restoration and sustainability; they will become inventors protecting and restoring our sacred water, air, and lands. They will design a/our Future planet that lives in harmony, joy, and enchantment.

Creative Expression is vital to the soul as it expresses (and nourishes) your spirit essence. A soul that is grounded in purpose and encouraged to express its vital life force is simply powerful. Creative expression may channel through dance, martial art, music, painting, drawing, meditation, culinary arts, writing, cinema, drama, sculpting, photography, sport, architecture, or needlework. A collection of purpose driven souls creating and expressing will surely uplift the planet. Rightly so—creative expression is inherently optimistic and inspirational.

Martial arts, sports, & meditation develop grounded connection to our bodies. Our bodies carry our soul and therefore our purpose. Being comfortable in, and familiar with, your body supports confidence and expression of your purpose. We'll have a robust meditation, martial arts, and intramural sports program that centers on fun, focus, body-mind connection, and win-win competition.

Wisdom, Grace, Strength, & Joy

Wisdom, grace, strength, and joy are guiding tenets that support and influence both the curricular themes as well as the alignment of soul, mind, and body. The actions and words of adults are inspired by wisdom, grace, strength, and joy; at the same time, the nexus of energy swirling in the soul circle will also create and therefore inform wisdom, grace, strength, and joy: The mutually beneficial exchange creates a soothing crescendo that evolves alongside—and nourishes—the community. It's a beautiful thing.

Spirit

At Divine Harmony Education, we define spirit as an energy—unseen by most—that holds us in an encouraging, beneficial, optimistic, loving, and warm embrace. Intention is powerful. As we hold our intentions, the process of creativity unfolds: as we inspire people around us to participate in our creations we activate this spirit energy and it becomes our co-creator. We respect, honor, and are incredibly grateful for this ancient, sacred, and ancestral spirit. We honor the multitude of wo/mankind's expression and understanding of this divine spirit energy.

Wisdom's Foundation

Wisdom's base is grounded in our vision of a thriving planet. We imagine—and confidently believe in—a planet where all living things thrive and belong. Harmony, joy, and enchantment are achievable. Defining a thriving planet that is aspirational becomes essential as descriptive beacons light the way. Therefore, our beliefs and value bring our vision into focus. Combining clearly articulated beliefs and values with fluent and fluid emotional agility is the spring from which wisdom drinks. As we bridge the gap between our current and future realities, staying balanced protects the enduring energy required to sustain us as we design for a planet suffuse in joy, harmony, and enchantment.

Pedagogical Principles

We benefit from the many centuries of research discovering how kids (and adults) learn best. Human-centered education takes into account our soul, senses, body, curiosity, aspirations, emotions, needs, desires, intellect, imagination, and our determined desire to express, create, and pragmatically improve...all inside a supportive community of love and belonging.

Whole Person Learning Framework informs disciplined pedagogical moves. Learning tends to follow a natural sequential rhythm that 1) Acknowledges feelings and emotions (Affective), 2) Sparks the imagination (Imaginal), 3) Interrogates and discerns new information (Conceptual), and 4) Applies that information for practical use (Practical). Depending on the learning profile of an individual or group, the pedagogical moves may not always flow from 1 - 4, but rather jump around in multiple combinations such as conceptual, imaginal, affective, and practical, for instance.

Experiential and Interactive pedagogy, also referred to as project-based learning, is the core of effective teaching and learning. People want their learning to be problem-centered, personalized and accepting of their need for self-direction and personal responsibility, all of which is accomplished through project-based learning. Project-based learning applies ideas to the practical world, directly teaches and fosters collaboration attitudes and skills, and contributes immediately to the well-being of the community and planet as projects are often centered on contemporary dilemmas and issues.

Play releases the imagination, improves executive function, and develops cognitive, motor, social, and literacy skills. Play can take several forms: For younger Designers, it

may look more like games. For older Designers it may take the form of simulations. While play is exceptionally academic, it can also reduce stress, increase movement, and improve overall health.

Multi-sensory pedagogy encourages all of the senses to come alive, therefore increasing engagement, sometimes significantly. Our basic senses include sight, touch, hearing, smell, and taste. We'll also explore intuition (known as the 6th sense) which is an instinctive awareness that gives us a hunch or a gut feeling about someone or something. It has been said that intuition is nothing but rapid cognition, and while it is the speed of the knowing that gives it the hunch or gut feeling, it is knowing generated through cognition. Pedagogy rich in senses invites engagement, increases attention, and improves the conditions for learning.

Story-telling is as essential to the human experience as breathing. Stories breath life into universal connection and truths. It is through stories that we connect to each other and our shared traditions, legends, hopes, and aspirations. Stories engage our minds and emotions. We share enthusiasm, problems, sorrow and joy. They increase our understanding and empathy. Stories actually trigger neural coupling, creating similar neural patterns and resonance between the story teller and listeners—that's powerful. Stories provide structure and order. They make ideas and experiences familiar, predictable, and comforting. Stories trigger our imaginations—tapping into creativity, discovery and exploration—all vital qualities as we reimagine and redesign our planet.²

Language-rich pedagogy uncovers and reveals the structure of language, which can often go unseen by native speakers. Explicitly teaching language structures, such as speaking prompts or sentence stems, makes language more accessible and can increase and improve language production, especially as it relates to speaking and writing. Direct and clear teaching of language structures is paramount to mastering language production.

Curiosity & Self-direction recognize our innate desire to explore, learn, and grow. Engagement flourishes naturally when Designers are curious about a topic or understand the relevance of a particular skill. Fundamental to this pedagogical principle is trust. Teachers and adults trust and follow the natural instincts and desires of Designers. A pedagogy copious in curiosity and self-direction is rich in choice.

Differentiation brings curricular choice alive, which increases engagement and therefore learning. Differentiation creates opportunities for designers to engage in similar content that has a variety of access points across interest (topic, process, & product) and facility (learning profile and ability).

Noncognitive Factors elevate the magnitude and influence of the socio-cultural context of learning. Academic mindsets, social skills, academic perseverance, learning

² <https://www.asaporg.com/communication/what-makes-stories-so-powerful>

strategies, and academic behaviors strongly correlate to both academic and life success. Paying attention to these noncognitive factors as well as mindfully designing a learning environment characterized by belonging, curiosity, collaboration, supportive relationships, meaningful and relevant content, choice & autonomy, and skill development opportunities will produce inspirational graduates prepared to transform the planet and restore harmony.

Emotional Competency and Agility is the point of departure for our pedagogical practice. Among many features, humans have thoughts, aspiring souls, emotions, and feelings. The adults of Divine Harmony Education practice emotional awareness and fluidity for themselves while supporting our Designers to do the same. We are focused on surfacing and naming our emotions while navigating the meaning we make and assign to experience. There is a balance we strike between generosity and self-advocacy. We listen to others and assign meaning with our hearts, yet we are balanced in meeting our own needs: we combine generous listening with embodied dignity for self and others. As Viktor E. Frankl so eloquently said, “Between stimulus and response there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our freedom.” Emotional competency and agility support wise choices that manifest in-between stimulus and response.

Equity and Technology both inform and aid pedagogical practice. Equity is about eliminating the predictability of group membership with performance as well as academic and life outcomes. Equity addresses the opportunity gaps by providing a variety of inputs based on Designer need and learning profile. Technology is used as an aid to teaching. While it does not replace the intimacy or art of teaching and learning, it serves as an aid to create comprehensible input by addressing multiple learning modalities such as visual and oratory learning.

Performance-based Assessments accurately measure acquisition of one or more course standards. Performance-based assessments are distinct in that they do not “measure” student success through multiple-choice exams, but rather through complex performance task that tend to be nuanced, authentic, process/product-oriented, open-ended, and pragmatically applied in living/working contexts and situations.

Domains of Language are the pedestal of human expression and connection. It is through listening, speaking, reading, and writing that we express ourselves—our ideas, needs, feelings, and aspirations. Learning to read or write is not only the job of the English teacher, but rather the job of every teacher. Learning to listen and speak is not only the job of the Speech teacher but rather the job of every teacher. We have clearly defined metrics for the domains of English, which serve as benchmarks for elegant and graceful expression of the human spirit.

Critical Thinking is indispensable as we hold the space between now and then as we dream and design our future planet. Critical thinking includes dispositions, practices,

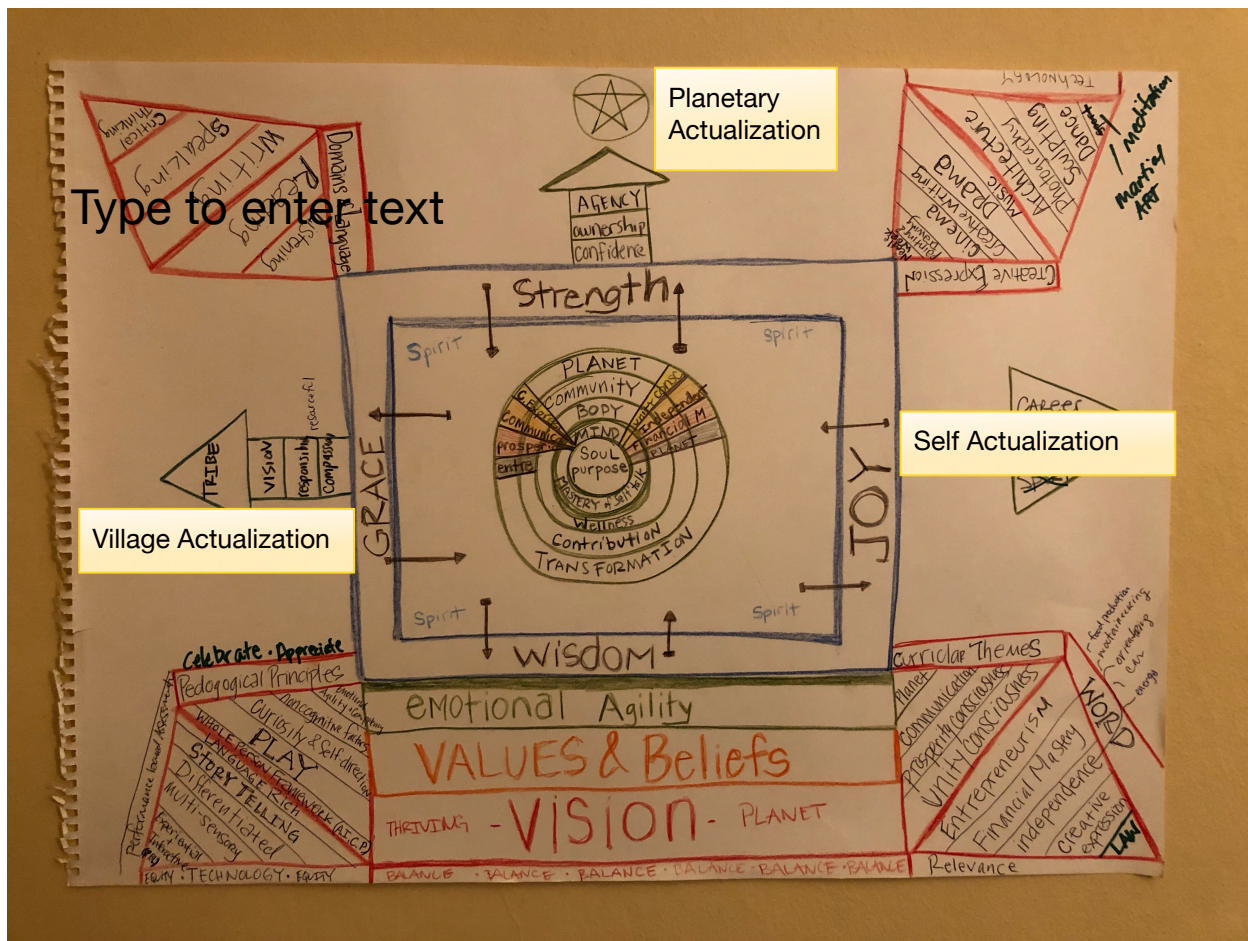
and concrete skills. Critical thinking skills assist one to navigate the “rreal world” as we are of service to the “RReal world.”³

Self-Actualization: Choice born from alignment with the soul, mind, and body coupled with skill, confidence, and curious humility is true liberation. Divine Harmony Designers graduate prepared to serve their purpose, and with poise and optimism, pursue their path to self-actualization.

Village-Actualization: The village is your foundation. It is the ground that provides stability or shakes; it is the well that satiates or runs dry. Nourishing yourself with care, compassion, and forgiveness flows into your village and community, providing sustenance, inspiration, and wellbeing to others. As Futurists stand with strength and purpose, they bring responsibility, compassion, resources, and vision to their village. Futurists have a Presence in the world as they exemplify love, liberty, and peace.

Planetary-Actualization: The Planet is beckoning us forward, inviting us to dwell in joy, harmony, and enchantment. Just as the planet’s current outcomes are by design, so too can be its future. With confidence, ownership, and agency our Designers will meet the challenge with wisdom, grace, strength, and joy. We can design for a planet where all life thrives and belongs, and we will.

³ The real world (lower case “r”) refers to the fiction/illusion we have created. Real world (uppercase “R”) refers to the “oneness” that we are—i.e., the gift we share with all. A world devoid of judgement and filled with souls committed to “being of service” to others.



Logistics

Grade Level

While our true vision is to be of service for the entire life cycle—birth to death—we'll start by opening a K-12 private school grounded in a spiritual philosophy.

Where

TBD

