## VES Philosophy, Mission, and Core Beliefs

It is the philosophy of Voluntown Elementary School to promote a positive atmosphere to help students grow academically, socially, and emotionally. Our entire staff is dedicated to providing all students with a productive and enjoyable environment and encourages all students and parents to become allies in this endeavor as they complete graduation requirements and make the transition from elementary to junior high and junior high to high school. Recognizing that our ultimate goal is to prepare students who will be responsible citizens of a democratic, culturally diverse society, our mission is to educate the whole student, encourage the pursuit of excellence, and foster an enduring love of learning.

Our mission is based on the following beliefs/values:

- All students need to be valued and respected.
- All students are at a unique developmental stage and require a safe and nurturing learning environment appropriate to their particular emotional and cognitive needs.
- A comprehensive academic program must recognize the individual needs, interests, and learning styles of all students.
- An optimal curriculum addresses all facets of literacy and benchmark standards, teaching basic skills, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills in a variety of disciplines.
- A cooperative relationship with parents and community is vital in the education of children.