Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

When learners engage in critical thinking and problem solving, they:

- Solve meaningful, real-life, complex problems
- Take concrete steps to address issues
- Design and manage projects
- Acquire, process, interpret, and analyze information to make informed decisions (critical and digital literacy)
- Engage in an inquiry process to solve problems
- Make connections and transfer learning from one situation to another


Why is it Important?

As students face increasingly complex global issues they will need to be able to solve challenging problems in an ever-changing world.

The Student Experience

- Integrates different sets of skills or discipline and knowledge to solve problems
- Evaluates evidence for relevance, precision or accuracy
- Engages actively in projects that they find interesting, meaningful and/or relevant
- Identifies, questions and justifies assumptions
- Considers context or incorporates different perspectives to evaluate thoughts or actions
- Requires application of details to larger context

The Teacher Experience

- Encourages inquiry-based learning connected to real-world settings over lessons in isolation
- Focuses on big ideas and concepts over specific expectations
- Inspires integrated, interdisciplinary learning experiences over single-subject approaches
- Facilitates multiple opportunities for students to question, examine, create, solve, interpret and debate
- Provides students with the tools and skills to analyze the validity of information and the context of their assumptions
- Offers a variety of opportunities for students to demonstrate their learning (e.g., case studies, portfolios, project-based learning), incorporating student voice and choice