

## TEN PRINCIPLES OF LEARNING, TEACHING, AND FORMATION

1. **The heart of education.** Our education is not just about the acquisition of knowledge (recall or mastery of content), but more importantly, about understanding (through Reflection), application (through Action), and most of all, character formation.

*[Ignatian Pedagogy, Understanding by Design, Holistic Education]*

2. **Cura personalis.** Our well-being, motivation, and emotions are critical to our learning.

*[Empathy, Cura Personalis]*

3. **Meeting learners where they are.** All of us learners--no matter our background and starting point--can learn and have something valuable to contribute to the learning.

*[Growth Mindset, Individual Learner Differences]*

4. **Magis.** We need to be stretched and challenged if we are to learn and grow. High expectations lead to high performance.

*[Magis]*

5. **A Learning Sanctuary.** We will have a safe space for learning and a community that supports and challenges us to learn to think independently and critically, where we welcome other perspectives, rehearse our ideas out loud, experiment with our practice, and receive reasonable and respectful feedback from fellow learners and mentors.

*[Brain-based Learning, Harvard Discussion-Based Teaching]*

6. **Learning as Active and Interactive.** We learn best by doing and by interacting with fellow learners. Content is best not “dumped” on students, but offered in a way that encourages our learners to interact with it and to learn it with other learners.

*[Active Learning, Learner-Centered Learning, Peer Learning, Empowerment]*

7. **Learning as Meaning Making.** Our learning becomes meaningful when we actually interact with the new ideas and concepts, unpack them, wrestle with them, connect them to others (even from other disciplines), add to them, and make them our own.

*[Learning by Refraction, Constructivist Learning]*

8. **Assessment for Learning and for Transfer.** We learn more when our assessments are formative (when we are given constructive feedback) and authentic (when it entails application in a real-world context).

*[Assessment for Learning, Authentic Assessment]*

9. **Companions in the Journey.** We will build a learning community where each one is seen and feels that he or she belongs. Our learning will not be an isolated journey. We will be personally accompanied in a learning community of like-minded and supportive companions and coaches.

*[Learning Communities, Learning by Refraction]*

10. **Education for the Greater Good.** In our learning community, we will be guided not so much towards what we want, but towards what others need—and for the believers among us, towards what God wants for us and the world (Ignatian discernment).

["The place God calls you to  
is the place where your deep gladness  
and the world's deep hunger meet." — Frederick Buechne]