



Serendipity's Mission is to provide the best environment for our students to heal and become educated, productive community members.

Student Leadership Fact Sheet

As the guiding philosophy for our therapeutic school, Serendipity embraces the principles of Re-Education. These focus on the strength inherent in each child, employing a variety of perspectives and experiential approaches to thoughtfully move students towards independence.

Program Definition

It is Serendipity's belief that supporting students in the development of leadership skills, including collaboration, self-expression, advocacy, project management, etc., results in important gains in both confident and competency that transfer to other settings. Students with disabilities and those who have endured repeated failures can too often see themselves as marginalized. To experience membership in a community, providing service to others, and having a voice with which to impact change can prepare our young people to transition to their next chapters with recognition of their own value, creativity, and capabilities.

Student Council:

Representatives of each Upper School classroom serve on Serendipity's Student Council. Under the guidance of staff advisors, student council members plan and facilitate a variety of school activities throughout the school year, spearhead student initiatives designed to improve community life at the school and provide invaluable feedback to Serendipity's management team regarding the agency's policies, programs and interventions. This provides members with the opportunity to develop leadership and self-advocacy skills while directly impacting the quality of the student experience at Serendipity.

- Student Council members hold formal meetings every two weeks to plan events and develop leadership skills.
- Student Council members plan and oversee multiple themed dances and spirit weeks to cultivate school pride and joy in the student community.
- Student Council members participate in the agency's Quality/Continuous Improvement Plan (Q-CIP) meetings, expressing student concerns directly to Serendipity's managers and other stakeholders.



Student Council representatives learn lifelong leadership skills.

- Student Council members represent the student body at Serendipity's annual Pearls of Hope fundraising event.
- Student Council members regularly generate ideas to improve school life, advocate for ideas suggested by peers and advance initiatives when feasible for the betterment of all in the school community.

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Serendipity's Core Beliefs, drawn from the Principles of RE-Education:

- Trust is essential.
- Feelings should be nurtured.
- Groups are major sources of instruction.
- Community must be experienced to be learned.
- Intelligence can be enhanced.
- Competence makes a difference, especially with schoolwork.
- Self-control can be taught.
- Physical experiences help us define ourselves.
- Now is when life is to be lived.
- Time is an ally in support of positive changes
- Ceremony and ritual give order, stability, and confidence.
- Joy should be built into each day.

Serendipity Center Student Leadership Fact Sheet



Serendipity students display their courage as well as their singing, dancing, and comedic skills at our annual talent show.

Student Council Member General Expectations:

- Consistent Safe, Respectful, and Responsible behavior
- 90% school attendance; with on-time arrival
- 85% participation in class
- 85% work completion/passing classes
- Are recognized by Classroom Teacher, staff and/or peers as a leader/role-model for excellent behavior at school
- Committed to attend and participate in student council meetings, check-ins and events

Other Opportunities

- The *Eagles' Scream* is a monthly student news paper to which all students are invited to contribute stories and original art.
- Volunteer students assist with the planning and production of the annual student yearbook.

- A Talent Show is annually towards the end of the school year. Interested students plan their performances, audition, and perform with great pride.



Students and staff enjoying the Valentine's Day dance.

For more information, please contact:

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