

Symbols are important. Some of those things which represent Crater Renaissance are ammonites and the golden mean (encouraging one to “see the whole picture”), Larry the Lawn Gnome of Destiny (reminding us of the importance of student ownership of the school), and Don Quixote (representing the importance of being idealistic...and a little bit crazy as we do this work).

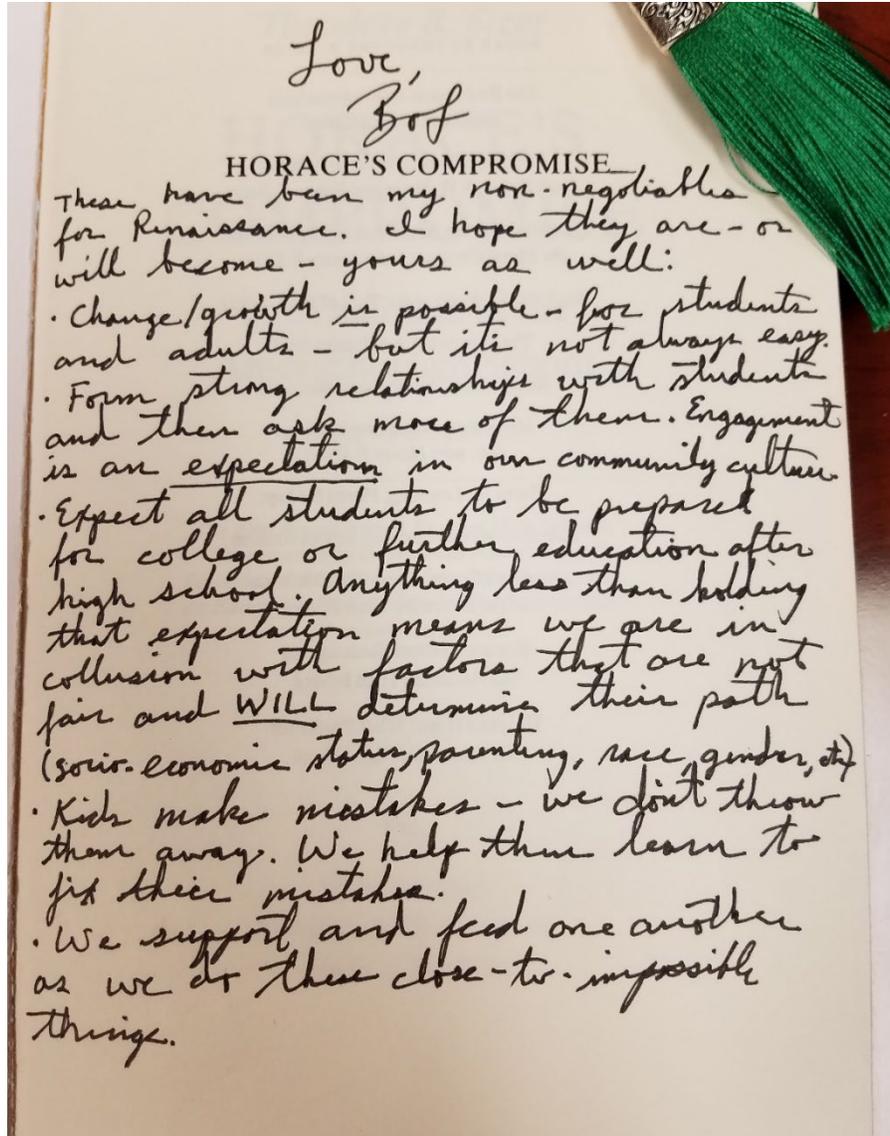
Renaissance Academy’s Mission: To serve as a beacon school that graduates well-rounded students, with strong foundational skills, who connect subjects, ideas, people, problems and solutions; who create unique, significant work that contributes to the community and/or world; and who can change themselves, their peers and the world. **Connect — Create — Change!**

The Renaissance Core Principles

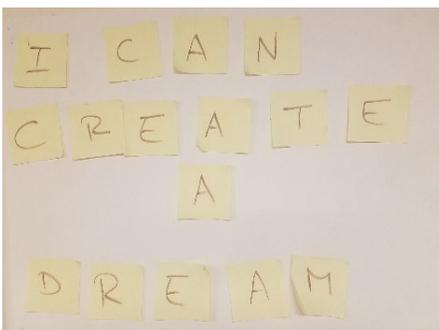
Based on the Coalition of Essential Schools Ten Common Principles

1. Learn to use one's mind well, to think, to problem-solve (2008-2009 and 2015-2016 Focus).
2. Less is more; it’s all about depth and mastery rather than coverage of material (2012-2013 Focus).
3. Goals apply to all students (2013-2014 Focus).
4. Personalization – teachers respond best to students they know well; students respond best to teachers they know well (2018-2019 Focus).
5. Student-as-worker, teacher-as-coach – students learn how to learn (2010-2011 and 2017-2018 Focus).
6. Demonstration of mastery – real life ways to show what students know and are able to do (2009-2010 Focus).
7. Exhibit a tone of decency, kindness, high expectations and trust (2007-2008 and 2016-2017 Focus).
8. Commitment to the entire school – teachers are generalists first – specialists second (2014-2015 Focus).
9. Resources must be dedicated to teaching and learning.
10. Democracy and a commitment to equity; we will explicitly challenge all forms of inequity (2011-2012 and 2019-2020 Focus).





At our second school assembly, the class competition was for students (in grade-level groups) was to rearrange the letters in CRATER RENAISSANCE ASSEMBLY to spell something new. The three competing freshmen—the inaugural Renaissance class—spelled out I CAN CREATE A DREAM.



We are unapologetically idealistic about what we can accomplish with and for our kids because they deserve that from us.

