

## **The Four Fundamentals of African Centered Education**

1. **Use of African Centered Values System** to insure physically, intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually safe environment for scholars and staff to develop into their best selves and contribute to their families, communities, race, environment, and world. (Sankofa examples of this are the emphasis and application of the virtues of Maat and Nguzo Saba as the cornerstone of the code of conduct. The recitation and application of these principles and virtues are essential.)

2. **Curriculum and Curriculum infusions:** The history, culture, orature, literature, contributions, and aesthetic of African people are infused throughout the formal and informal curricula and rehearsed and celebrated both in and outside of the classroom Sankofa examples of this are the infusion of the contributions of African people in all content areas, the use of African and African American proverbs, folktales, stories, and other literary forms. The teaching of ancient Africana civilizations across the curriculum are other examples.)

3. **Use of Rituals, Rites, Enculturation Practices.** Throughout the year Sankofa will adopt enculturation practices designed to assist scholars in internalizing the values, remembering the sacrifices, and continuing the culture of African and Indigenous people. Sankofa examples of this are: Ungalia, Pouring of Libations, Recitation of Ankh Ws Snb, Celebration of Kwanzaa and Umoja Karamu, Use of traditional Africana greetings and protocols, Rites of Separation, Rites of Discovery, and Rites of Passage programs.

4. **Pedagogy** (Teaching and Learning Approaches). African Centered Education is not just about what we teach but how we teach and assess. This means scholars are using approaches that are culturally synchronistic and consistent with the learning styles of African children as in the literature by many Black psychologist and educators and derived from ancient and traditional African methodologies of teaching and learning. This means approaches to teaching and learning that are: experiential, intergenerational, communal, collaborative, dialogic, family and community based, expressive, purposeful, constructivist, generationally, socially, politically, economically relevant to the lives, experiences, and destiny of African people. Sankofa examples of this are cooperative and collaborative forms of learning, service and social justice projects, environmental projects, use of music, poetry, and art in teaching and learning, incorporation of sound and movement, intergenerational learning assignments such as interviewing elders in the family, or constructing family trees, use of inquiry-based approaches, and peer tutoring. Attention will also be paid to the wellness and healing arts in order to assist members of the community in obtaining and maintaining healthy lifestyles.