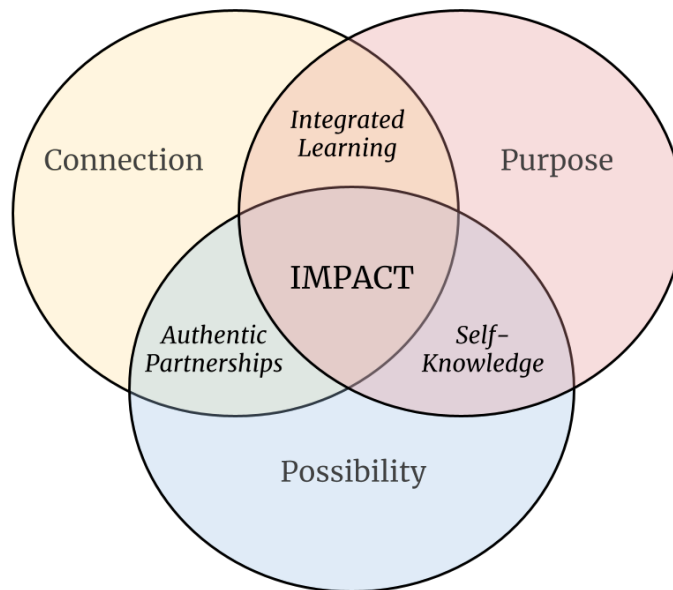


STRIPES: **STudying Real Issues, Places, and Experiences**

STRIPES Mission: In the STRIPES program, students learn through real-world, local experiences in the city of Philadelphia. STRIPES scholars develop a sense of connection, purpose, and possibility that empowers them to impact their communities.



Authentic partnership is cultivated on multiple levels in the STRIPES program. Young adults are welcomed into our community and fully appreciated for who they are. We start each session with a meeting to engender a sense of belonging, and we integrate team-building into our program. Through consensus, STRIPES students and teachers create a social contract, which guides how we support each other in achieving our individual and group goals. The partnership extends outside the walls of the school to include neighbors and experts in various fields who help plan and take action that has real-world impact. STRIPES students and teachers develop a shared purpose that inspires compassion, collaboration, and accountability.

Integrated learning encourages the assimilation and application of diverse ideas across traditional academic subject areas, reflecting the way our brains are designed to learn. While teachers carefully plan to align content with state standards, students will often be unaware of what “class” they are in. We utilize high-interest experiences as a springboard to knowledge, from which STRIPES students construct theoretical frameworks. STRIPES students immerse themselves into local case studies, making new connections and proposing ideas to affect change in their world. This knowledge is applied to the design and implementation of their projects.

Self-knowledge enables students to appreciate who they are while growing towards who they want to be. Regular coaching sessions reinforce executive functioning skills and social-emotional learning is applied to academic and personal goals. On a daily, weekly, and long-term basis, STRIPES participants reflect on their work and commitments. As such, grades are determined by teacher/student collaborative assessment. Students use their knowledge, skills, and mindsets to develop an important voice in shared decision-making. STRIPES students ultimately take action, coming to know themselves as powerful players in the world.