Ten Common Principles

1. **The school should focus on helping students use their minds well.**
   - Create school-wide habits of mind with a culture of high expectations for all students and a standards-based curriculum framed around essential questions.

2. **Each student should master a limited number of essential skills and areas of knowledge.**
   - Determine what is essential based on state standards and aligned with school's vision.

3. **The school's goals apply to all students, while the means to these goals will vary.**
   - Provide all students with a challenging curriculum and eliminate rigid ability grouping.

4. **Teaching and learning should be personalized to the maximum feasible extent. Students must be known well by the adults who teach them.**
   - Ensure that the student-to-teacher ratio is 20:1 at the elementary level, and 80:1 at the secondary.

5. **The governing metaphor should be student as worker, teacher as coach.**
   - Teach students how to learn and how to teach themselves.

6. **Students should demonstrate mastery of knowledge through exhibitions.**
   - Ensure that learning culminates in products that are public and demonstrate mastery of skills, habits of mind, and knowledge.

7. **The tone of the school should stress values of trust, decency, and high expectations coupled with support.**
   - Provide students with choices and numerous opportunities to succeed.

8. **Staff should expect multiple obligations and have a sense of commitment to the entire school.**
   - Perceive the staff's role as going beyond the immediate classroom or subject area.

9. **The entire school's resources should be committed to whole-school change.**
   - Make certain that resource and staffing decisions are based on student needs and authentic teaching and learning.

10. **The school should model democratic practices, honor diversity, build on the strengths of its community, and explicitly challenge inequity.**
    - Address and understand inequitable distributions of student achievement.