Holistic Approach to Education Aims to Create ‘Life Learners’

*Nobel Learning Communities emphasizes learning beyond the core academic subjects*

PHILADELPHIA (Mar. 15, 2006) – With shrinking education budgets and growing pressure to raise standardized test scores, many schools throughout the country feel forced to cut programs that fall outside the core academic subjects of math, language arts and the sciences. Oftentimes, extracurricular activities and sports, as well as courses such as world languages, art, music, drama, and technology are the first to be eliminated when it comes to focusing on the No Child Left Behind mandates. Unfortunately, these cuts may adversely affect students who miss out on the long-term benefits that a well-rounded curriculum can provide.

Nobel Learning Communities, Inc. (NLCI), which operates 35 elementary and middle schools around the county, believes that the cognitive skills gained through core academic coursework are critical, but that it is equally important for children to develop the social and emotional skills essential for lifelong success – skills best learned through a well-rounded, “holistic” curriculum. The NLCI elementary and middle schools, including Chesterbrook Academy and Merryhill Schools, teach core academics plus Spanish, technology, visual arts, music, physical education, wellness and the value of community service.

“Our holistic approach to education introduces children to ideas and experiences that will help them become responsible, active participants in society,” said Dr. Osborne Abbey, vice president of education for Nobel Learning Communities. “Elementary through middle school is a formative time when students lay the groundwork for learning. It is important that students’ academic skills are supported by a strong social and emotional foundation before they enter the more specialized years of high school, college, and ultimately the workforce.”

Nobel Learning Communities’ holistic curriculum encourages students to be active learners who explore, understand and participate in the world around them. By exposing students to a wide variety of disciplines, they can fine-tune both cognitive and non-cognitive skills while preparing for a well-balanced life outside of school. It also lays the foundation for building proficiencies necessary to compete in a workforce where technical abilities and non-cognitive skills such as leadership, conflict resolution, self-discipline, and ethical decision-making are essential. Fostering these core competencies can be adapted early in a child’s education by engaging elementary-aged students on health and community issues, diverse cultures, and the fine arts.

About Nobel Learning Communities, Inc.

Nobel Learning Communities, Inc., is a national network of 150 nonsectarian private schools, including preschools, elementary schools, and middle schools in 13 states across the nation. Nobel Learning Communities provides high quality private education, with small class sizes, caring and skilled teachers, and attention to individual learning styles. They also offer an array of supplemental educational services, including before- and after-school programs, the Camp Zone® summer program, learning support programs, and specialty high schools. For more information on Nobel Learning Communities, or to find a school near you, please visit [www.NobelLearning.com](http://www.NobelLearning.com).

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