USN Middle School: 
*Core beliefs that guide our work with children*

1. The person a child is becoming is more important than what a child knows.

2. The social-emotional curriculum is as important as the academic curriculum.

3. The brain of a pre-adolescent is still developing in significant ways, including time management, perspective-taking, reasoning, impulse control, and attention; as a result, instructional time should provide scaffolding in these areas.

4. Discovering and making use of how a student learns best is as important as what a student learns.

5. Pre-adolescents develop better decision-making skills and learn best when they are in the company of adults they trust and who know them.

6. Learning to struggle effectively and to seek appropriate assistance when struggling leads to maturity.

7. Self-confidence is crucial for personal and academic growth; it comes when effort invested is met with a feeling of progress.

8. Content taught should have a high life-worthiness value.

9. Partnership between students, parents, and teachers leads to a child’s best learning.

10. Children need adequate time for play, nature, and reflection, without electronic devices.