

The W.E.C.H.S. Philosophy of Humane Education

Humane education truly is complete education. It's a thorough process by which both educator and learner collaborate to reveal and resolve existing issues of significance. Human, as a word, is deeply rooted to the word humane. The prefix *hum* comes from the Latin word *humus*, meaning earth or ground. Maybe the words humble, humanitarian and humiliate come to mind. Really, humanness necessitates humaneness. Human beings are inherently united to basic principles like compassion, empathy, respect, selflessness and integrity.

Understanding the word humane leads us to realize that the purpose of humane-focused education must be to inspire people to live a life that fully mirrors the true meaning of being human—a morally sound individual who is fair, kind and just. In specifically targeting today's youth, we're confident that exposure to our program will encourage them to keep the interests of humans, other forms of life and the environment at the forefront of their consciousness.

Research shows that humane education increases self-esteem and a sense of responsibility. By possessing empathy and showing compassion, having an arsenal of knowledge and critical-thinking skills and employing a stronger aptitude for solution-based problem solving, humane education allows us to be both well-equipped and personally motivated to be agents for positive change.

Finally, humane education is education for a better world. It naturally arouses in us that instinctive desire to do good. We must be precisely what we ought to be—humane beings.

