



## INTRODUCTION AND CURRICULUM OUTLINE

KaleidoEye is an innovator on the stage of youth leadership providers. Owned and operated by Mike Sissel, a former Kyrene School District teacher and co-author of Teaching Hope: Stories from the Freedom Writer Teachers, we facilitate Arizona youth to become designers and leaders of their own lives. With laser focus on self-awareness and self-management skills, our goal is to provide youth with effective “lenses” to filter modern day concerns and proactively create their best self.

KaleidoEye’s signature program, *Lenses of Leadership*, consists of ten very powerful lessons which are facilitated by Mike Sissel himself. The first six lessons, which we refer to as the KNOW AND GROW portion of the curriculum, are designed to build a foundation of emotional intelligence. An additional four lessons make up the APPLICATION portion of the curriculum and are aimed at enhancing the emotional intelligence of each student by addressing age appropriate, modern day challenges (i.e. bullying). It is our goal that by the end of the *Lenses of Leadership* program, all students will possess a toolkit for life that will serve them well in both their academic and personal pursuits.

### KNOW AND GROW

#### Lesson 1 – My lens on leadership

What does it mean to be a leader and is everyone capable of becoming one? During this lesson we provide students with an alternative way of looking at leadership, one that encourages them to embrace their own unique leader within and recognize the difference they make for others.

#### Lesson 2 – Creating positive change from the “inside-out”

We believe that sustainable change occurs through a process of changing oneself first. During this lesson, we examine all of the facets of life that are out of our control and begin to focus on the tremendous power of our thoughts, feelings, and actions.

#### Lesson 3 – My thoughts as lenses

The human mind functions much like an information processor, constantly making sense of the world around us. Furthermore, our thoughts act as lenses and serve as the primary filter of life events. During this lesson, we introduce a new set of lenses that serve as a means of personal empowerment, or “me” power.

#### Lesson 4 – Learning to use my KaleidoEye

As is the case with any skill, proper practice is critical. During this lesson, we examine the use of various lenses in multiple contexts. Students view movie clips and listen to stories of great leaders who have overcome adversity, all the while cognizant of the concept of lenses.



### **Lesson 5 – The power of the iLens**

While it's quite common for kids to hear the question "What do you want to do when you grow up?", we like to ask "Who are you right now?" Following a process of personal discovery, students will be asked to create and declare a statement that expresses who they are. This will ultimately serve as their iLens.

### **Lesson 6 – Why am I feeling this way?**

We believe that it is absolutely critical for all students to learn to harness the energy that is present within each emotion. This process is often referred to as "emotional intelligence". During this lesson, students are asked to examine their own emotions and learn to implement various lenses that will help them create desirable outcomes.

### **APPLICATION**

### **Lesson 7 – My lens on bullying**

While it's true that bullying has become a challenge in schools and communities throughout the country, we provide an alternative approach to ending bullying, one that we call "bully proofing". Rather than focusing our energy on stopping the bully through various punitive measures, we empower students to use the tools they now possess to remain powerful in spite of bullying behavior.

### **Lesson 8 – My lens on failure**

We believe that one's ability to own and learn from his/her mistakes is directly proportionate to the level of success they achieve. Mistakes (or failure) are often seen as inherently bad and are therefore avoided with the absence of risk. During this lesson, students will learn to embrace their mistakes and carry with them the lesson they have learned.

### **Lesson 9 – My lens on school**

It's clear that student engagement is directly correlated with academic success. Unfortunately, many students choose to disengage when something seems boring or mundane. We believe that boredom is a choice and the lens through which the students view school will transform boredom into creativity and innovation.

### **Lesson 10 – My lens on my classmates or peer group**

In today's global economy, it's critical for students to learn to cooperate more than they compete. The effects of competition can often lead to low self-esteem and a comparison culture, both of which drive students apart. Cooperation, on the other hand, leads to outcomes that aren't possible in isolation.