**Definition: *Enduring Understandings***

Enduring understandings are statements summarizing important ideas and core processes that are

central to a discipline and have lasting value beyond the classroom. They synthesize what students should understand—not just know or do—as a result of studying a particular content area. Moreover, they articulate what students should “revisit” over the course of their lifetimes in relationship to the content area.

**Enduring understandings:**

1. Frame the big ideas that give meaning and lasting importance to such discrete curriculum elements as facts and skills.

2. Can transfer to other fields as well as adult life.

3. “Unpack” areas of the curriculum where students may struggle to gain understanding or demonstrate misunderstandings and misconceptions.

4. Provide a conceptual foundation for studying the content area and for basic skills.

5. Are deliberately framed as declarative sentences that present major curriculum generalizations and recurrent ideas.

6. Enduring Understandings can be identified as overall course understandings and/or can also be identified within each unit.

**Examples of Enduring Understandings:**

Art

 The greatest artists often break with established traditions and techniques to better

express what they see and feel.

Literature

 The modern novel overturns many traditional story elements and norms to provide a

more authentic and engaging narrative.

 Reading is a process by which we construct meaning about the information being

communicated by an author within a print or non-print medium.

History and Government

 Democracy requires a free and courageous press, willing to question authority.

Mathematics

 Mathematics allows us to see patterns that might have remained unseen.

Physical Education

 A muscle that contracts through its full range of motion will generate more force.

Science

 Gravity is not a physical thing but a term describing the constant rate of acceleration of

all falling objects.

(http://www6.grafton.k12.wi.us/district/eclipse/essentialquestions/enduring.html, Understanding

by Design Professional Workbook, McTighe and Wiggins. 2004.)