THE BIG IDEAS of SUSTAINABILITY

**Community**
A group of living and non-living things sharing a common purpose or space.

**Systems**
Parts are connected through larger patterns.

**Diversity**
All systems and places function because of variety.

**Cycles**
Every organism and every system goes through different stages.

**Interdependence**
All living things are connected. Every organism, system, and place depends on others.

**Limits**
Every system has a carrying capacity.

**Change over Time**
All organisms, places, and systems are constantly changing.

**Place**
Natural and human communities together make up one’s place.

**Fairness/Equity**
Resources are shared to meet the needs of living things – across places and generations.

**Ability to Make a Difference**
Everyone has the ability to change or impact a system, community, and themselves.

**Long-Term Effects**
Actions have effects beyond immediate reactions.

**Equilibrium**
A state of balance.

"Sustainability means supporting healthy, harmonious, equitable ways of life for future generations."
– TEACHER, CELF WORKSHOP, SCARSDALE, NY

SUSTAINABILITY
When the environmental, economic, and social needs of a society are met in the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.