



COMMUNITY SCHOOL

A CHOICE SCHOOL IN THE LAKE WASHINGTON
SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMMUNITY SCHOOL STAFF

Teaching Staff

Veronique Hageman 1st & 2nd grade

Erin Janov- 2nd & 3rd grade

Maddie Kerr- 4th & 5th grade

Shannon Duncan– Instructional Assist/Para Educator

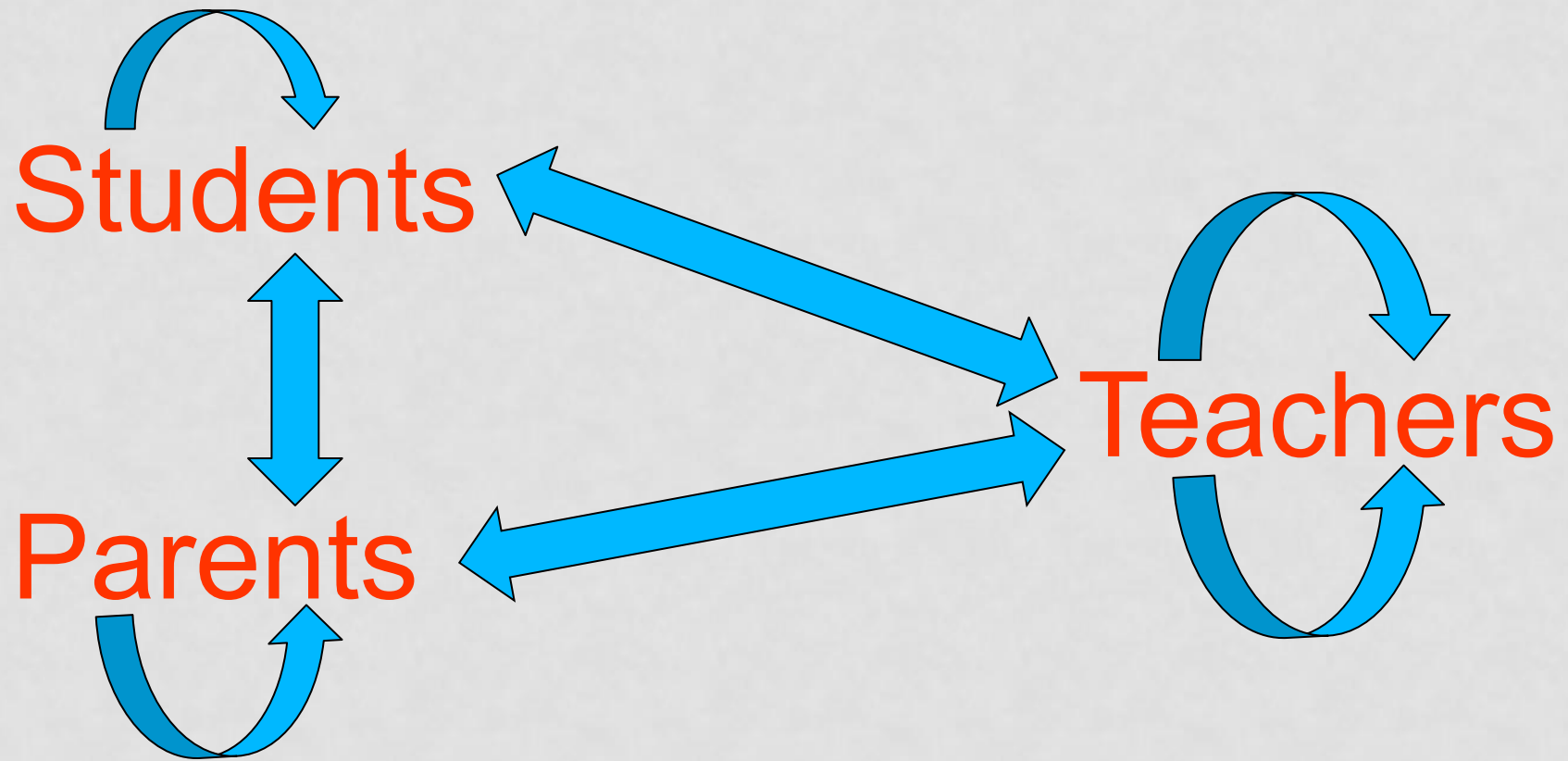
Deepa Rao – Instructional Assistant

Office Manager Michele Aiken-Dunn

Principal Margaret Kinney

Associate Principal Mike O'Donnell

Challenge children academically, physically, creatively, socially & emotionally in an **atmosphere of cooperation and trust** .





Community School

Construct 1:

Children Learn by Doing

This applies to:

Making decisions

We do this by consensus (no voting).

•Taking responsibility

We provide opportunities to gain responsibility through student goal-setting and self-reflections, group work, all-school events, and multi-aged interactions.

•Engaging in critical thinking

We encourage this with inquiry-based academics.

•Solving problems (intellectual and interpersonal)

We teach appreciation for different points of view.

Community School Construct 2:

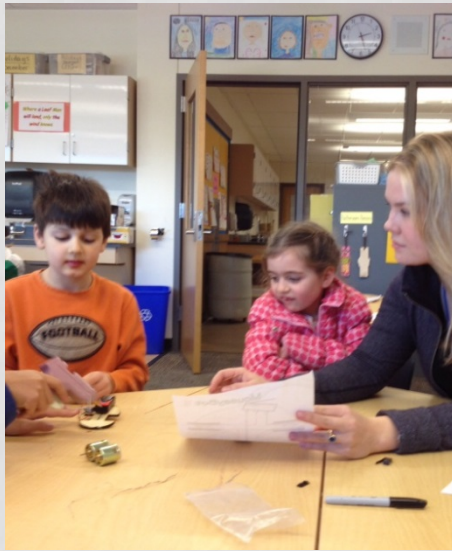
Children learn best when their abilities are challenged, internal motivation is increased, and their interest and learning style is taken into account.



Students are expected to put forth their best efforts to achieve their potential (socially, emotionally, and academically).

Community School Construct 3:

The community supports the teachers in their professional judgment as to the best strategies to meet the **needs of each individual child** as well as **the whole class.**



*Curriculum
planning and
implementation
is the teachers'
domain.*

This includes, but is not limited to: class configurations, designing mixed-age partnerships and peer working groups, camp cabin assignments, field trip chaperone assignments, student discipline, and classroom management.



Community School Construct 4:

Children learn best
in a **supportive, cooperative environment.**

Community School's supportive and cooperative learning environment is paramount to our students' success.

This vital standard is upheld by diligently choosing non-competitive means of assessment, play, and academic learning.

No report cards... No comparisons... No winners or losers...

Mutual trust and strong relationships with teachers and peers **fosters confidence and a sense of responsibility** in our students.



CONFERENCES/PORTFOLIOS

- Conferences are held early in the year for goal-setting and mid-year to discuss evidence of progress.
- Students choose work for their portfolios to show their growth over time.
- During validation conferences, students share and explain their “works of pride” to their parents.



Community School Construct 5:

Children learn best in an atmosphere where their **process**, and not merely the end result, is **acknowledged**, and **mistakes are recognized** as a natural part of the learning process.

Community School Construct 6:

**Opportunities for
interaction between
students of all ages**

lead to integration of
learning, increased ability
in social skills,
problem-solving skills
and
decision-making skills.



MULTI-AGE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Reading Pals: An older student is paired with a younger student to read together once per week through the year.

Breaks: All of our students eat lunch and take breaks together at the same time.

Triads: Two to three children from different classes team up to complete projects and take field trips.

Little Brothers/Little Sisters: An older student is paired with a younger student to provide occasional learning support.



Community School Construct 7:

Children learn best in an atmosphere that acknowledges and integrates their social, emotional, cognitive and physical development.



We **take time** for: playing together, sharing stories, imparting knowledge, discussing issues and resolving conflicts .

Community School Construct 8:

Children learn best when they **feel good about themselves**, and **feel empowered** socially, emotionally and academically.



Community School students are not judged, graded, or compared to each other.

Community School Construct 9:

Children learn more readily when their **home environment is philosophically compatible** with the educational framework of their learning.

Parents/guardians choose, value and support the student-centered learning that children embark upon daily, even though it may be different from the way that parents/guardians were taught.

Community School Construct 10:

Children learn best when parents work cooperatively with teachers and are actively and visibly involved in their child's social and academic development.



PARENTS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE AT COMMUNITY SCHOOL:

- **working cooperatively with teachers**
 - **providing enriching experiences**
 - **promoting the love of learning**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

- Help supervise students on the **playground** during morning break time and at the lunch hour.
- Chaperone a **field trip** (at least one each family)
- Additional opportunities:
 - ❖ Help in the classroom upon teacher request
 - ❖ Lead and plan parties
 - ❖ Lead and assist with Choice Activities
 - ❖ Be a guest reader for our Read-A-Thons
 - ❖ Lead and assist with Art Lessons
 - ❖ Lead and assist with STEAM Lessons

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL DAY

- **Committee Work:**

Steering, Finance, Volunteer Coordinator, Fundraising,
Community Building, etc.

- **Work Parties**

- **Maintain Garden**

- **Building and Site Improvements**

- **Classroom Material Prep**

Community School Construct 11:

Children learn best when their **horizons are broadened by exposure to the interests and styles of many people**, including other children, teachers, parents and the community-at-large.



Field trips, parents and community volunteers, camps, and Parent Choice.

Children who prosper at Community School:

- **Enjoy interacting with children of all ages**
- **Set goals for their growth**
- **Work toward personal responsibility**
- **Thrive without competition or external rewards**
- **Show pride in their work due to their efforts and internal motivation, not due to external validation or rewards**
- **Follow our “golden rule”: No hurting on the inside or outside.**

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

TRANSPORTATION CONSIDERATIONS



Parents need to provide transportation to and from Community School. **No busing** is provided by the Lake Washington School District.

We encourage **carpools**.

SCHOOL HOURS

M, T, TH, F: 8:50 AM– 3:20 PM

WEDNESDAY: 8:50AM – 1:50PM

Drop off no earlier than **8:45 AM.**

Pick up at **3:20 PM** (Wednesdays @ **1:50PM**)

There is **no supervision prior to 8:45 AM.** or
after we dismiss at 3:20 PM or 1:50 PM.

The Community School staff is not legally
responsible for your children prior to
8:45 a.m. or after **3:20 p.m.**

CONSIDERATIONS RELATED TO OUR MULTI-AGE CLASSROOMS

Our program is 1st through 5th grade.
A full five-year commitment is expected.

Lake Washington School District curricula are taught in our multi-age classrooms.

- **Science and Social Studies:** LWSD curricula are taught on a rotational basis, so all students are exposed to all the subject matter over the course of their five-year-long attendance at C.S.
- **Mathematics, Reading, Writing:** Common Core State Standards are incorporated into our multi-year academic planning.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT TOOLS

ASSESSMENT IS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PLANNING APPROPRIATE LEARNING EXPERIENCES

- Student growth will be measured using:
 - Fastbridge Assessment in Reading & Math(3x/year)
 - LWSD CDSAs for Math, Science, SS, and ELA
 - Illustrative Math Assessments
 - Teacher Observation
 - Student Reflections
 - Goal Setting

SUPPORT SYSTEM

WHEN A CHILD NEEDS HELP

- If a child's teacher is concerned about any area of a child's development (academic, social, emotional, physical), the teacher will arrange a meeting with parents to discuss the concern.
- The school's guidance team will be consulted when a teacher seeks advice, or strategies, to address concerns related to a child's *lack of progress over time, despite instructional accommodations*.

MONTHLY PARENT MEETING

This is your opportunity to become informed and involved in decision making.

Hear teacher announcements and updates.

Volunteer to help with ongoing events.

***Attendance is strongly recommended and is an integral part of the Community School culture.**

Parents at Community School:

- Participate actively and visibly
- Promote cooperation & non-competitiveness
- Attend monthly parent meetings
- Support staff, students, and each other.

SPECIAL EDUCATION CONSIDERATIONS

- The student's IEP team determines the services and placement. Legally, students must receive services as specified on the IEP.
- **When the level of services and/or the placement in a specific district program is not offered at the Choice school**, the student's placement will remain at the specific district program, or the student may receive the special education services at an alternate school site location in our district.