



2021-2022



WHERE
Wonder
LEADS

A LIFELONG
LOVE
OF LEARNING
BEGINS



Children learn by exploring. That's true for the physical world and the world of ideas. Community School provides the perfect place for that early exploration in a young child's life.

New people. New places. New ideas.

Welcome to a safe place for young minds to make sense of the world, surrounded by trusted adults who cherish them.

Now, let's go exploring.



Our expansive campus — with its woods, trails, fields, pond, and Treehouse classroom — provides a perfect environment for the exploration of a child's world... and the development of an appreciation for the concepts deeply underpinning our curriculum.

The great leaders of tomorrow will be the people who can observe and listen, and then reflect, discuss, and communicate complex ideas in ways that inspire others.

The leadership of the next generation is now just learning to explore our world with fresh eyes and open minds.

Community School understands where that wonder leads.





Overview

Grades

Nursery (age 3) through 6th Grade

School Hours

8:00 a.m. – 3:05 p.m. except Thursday

8:00 a.m. – 2:15 p.m. Thursday

Half-Day Nursery students

8:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. except Thursday

8:00 a.m. – 2:15 p.m. Thursday

Enrollment

- 344 students (173 girls, 171 boys)
- 36% students of color
- Students live in 45 different ZIP codes across the metro area.
- Nearly \$1 million allocated each year in student aid.
- More than 70% of Community families are dual-income or single working parents.

Faculty & Administrators

- Student-teacher ratio: 7:1
- Average class size: 20
- Minimum of two or three full-time team teachers in each classroom
- 49 full-time teachers and 2 part-time teachers
- 65% have advanced degrees
- Average years teaching experience: 19
- Average years at Community School: 11
- 14% male faculty and 12% faculty of color
- 44% administrators of color

Tuition

2021-2022 tuition, includes books, supplies, lunch, snacks, and field trips.

- Half-day Nursery: \$14,685
- Nursery – Senior Kindergarten: \$21,657
- First – Third Grades: \$22,314
- Fourth – Sixth Grades: \$22,634
- Financial aid and tuition refund insurance are offered.

Alumni

2,815 living alumni

Campus

- 18+ semi-secluded wooded acres with:
 - Pond
 - Nature trails
 - Playing fields
 - Butterfly garden
 - Three playgrounds
 - Treehouse classroom
- The Early Childhood Center is for Nursery through Senior Kindergarten; classrooms are spacious and open to outdoor play areas.
- The Main Building contains:
 - 1st – 6th grades
 - Community Center
 - Discovery Center
 - French room
 - Lower division science lab
 - Gym and movement room
- A Centennial Arts Center was completed in 2014 with modern rooms for art, music, and drama, as well as a performance space.
- A separate building contains an upper division science lab and woodshop.

Resources

- Individual classroom libraries and the Discovery Center have more than 25,000 books combined.
- Students have access to more than 300 laptops and iPads on a high-speed network; electronic whiteboards and projectors are in all classrooms except Nursery.
- A school counselor, academic technology specialist, and range of academic subject specialists provide support and enrichment to students.
- Endowment and Investment Assets: \$18,721,851 (as of 6/30/21)
- Operating Budget: \$9,065,931
- 100% of families, faculty, administrators, and Board of Trustees participate in Annual Giving.

Accreditations

- Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS)
- The National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)



HEAD OF SCHOOL

Bob Cooke



I am so pleased that you have decided to explore Community School for your family. I trust you will find that it is a wonderful, joyous place for children as they fall in love with learning.

Here, we believe that a child's education should be both broad and deep, with a comprehensive exploration of science, math, literature, writing, social studies, foreign language, the visual and performing arts, and technology. And because of our emphasis on character development and critical thinking,

our alumni earn leadership positions in secondary schools, in college, and in life.

For more than one hundred years, Community School has been launching children on their educational journeys, and we hope you will allow us to do the same for your child.

Academics



STEAM

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY,
ENGINEERING, ARTS, AND MATH

It may be a new acronym, but STEAM is nothing new at Community School. For more than 100 years, all students — age 3 through Grade 6 — have explored these themes using in-depth and hands-on approaches.

Community School has long set the standard for excellence among area elementary schools. Combining the perfect balance of intellectual challenge and nurturing support, the school sets the academic bar high for its students, while allowing each child's strengths to shine through.

A research-based curriculum truly engages young students in developmentally appropriate and active learning, and achievement test scores are consistently among the highest in the nation. The 7:1 student-teacher ratio increases opportunities for personalized attention and differentiated curriculum. An emphasis on public speaking helps build confident leaders.

High-quality literature, Singapore math, creative and expository writing, science, social studies, and foreign language are the heart of the academic program.

Arts & More

A dynamic arts curriculum complements academics through integration with classroom units, creating cross-curricular studies which enhance learning. Students experience music, woodshop, art, and drama with full-time faculty for each discipline.

Physical education and activity are essential to the growth and well-being of children. Students have physical education and daily recess, much of which takes place outdoors on the beautiful campus.

Research-Based Curriculum

Community School hires veteran faculty and provides them the freedom to maximize students' learning. Our teachers research and pilot programs to test their efficacy and outcomes, resulting in programs like *Math in Focus* — a Singapore math-based curriculum; *Foundations*, a brain-based method for teaching reading and phonics; and the TCRWP *Units of Study* by Lucy Calkins and colleagues.

Specialty Subjects & Grade Levels

Art (SK - 6th)*

Band/Chorus (5th - 6th)

Discovery Center (Nursery - 6th)

Drama (JK - 6th)*

French (Nursery - 6th)

Learning Center (SK - 6th)

Maker Space (6th)

Music (Nursery - 6th)

P.E. (Nursery - 6th)

Science (SK - 6th)*

Woodshop (SK - 6th)

* Younger grades also experience art, drama, and science in their classrooms

Half-Day Nursery Program

Community School offers a half-day Nursery program to provide more options for parents.

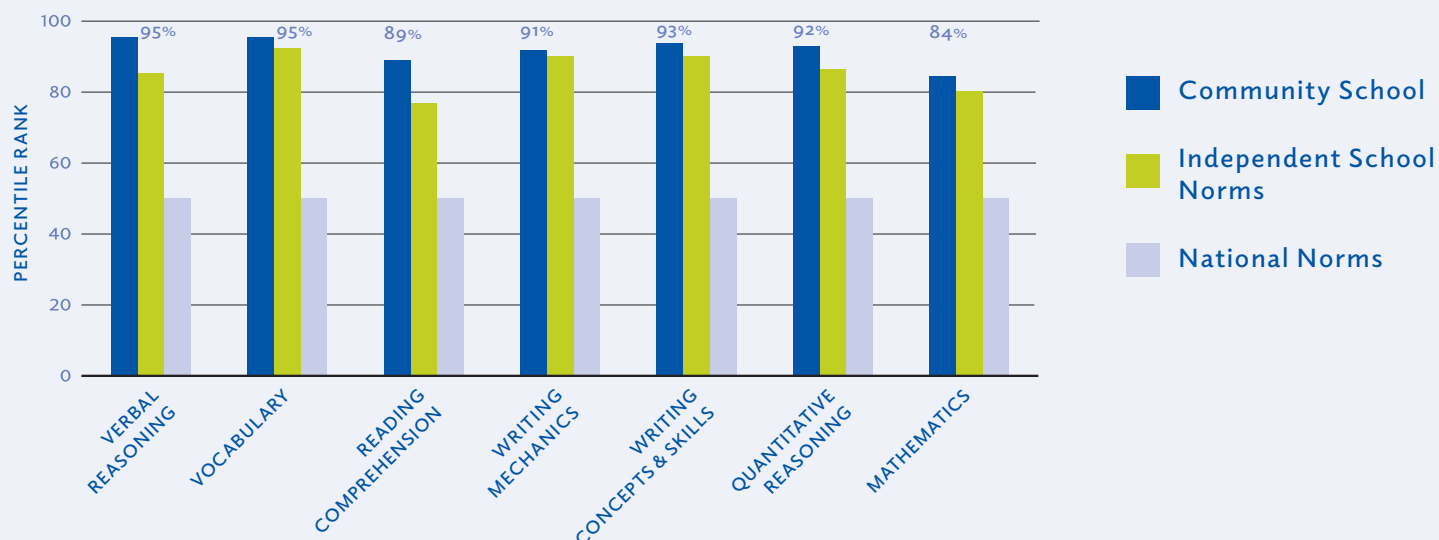
Community's "half days" are slightly longer than other area programs, allowing for deep exploration into curricular themes and academic readiness skills. Emphasis is on developing problem solving and critical thinking skills.

All Nursery students will experience developmentally appropriate French, music, and P.E.

Half-day children will leave after lunch, except Thursdays.

Parents will have the opportunity to "convert" from half-day to full-day as the year progresses.

Comparative Test Scores



Achievement Test Scores

Community School students score above both national and independent school averages on the Educational Records Bureau (ERB) test. In 2021, Community School's 6th grade students scored 41% above national norms and 6% above other independent schools.

Beyond Community

SECONDARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE*

John Burroughs School – 83	Saint Louis Priory School – 9	Crossroads College Preparatory – 1
MICDS – 44	Villa Duchesne – 9	Thomas Jefferson School – 1
Whitfield School – 15	Westminster Christian Academy – 4	*Last 5 years
Public Schools/Other – 14	Visitation Academy – 3	
Chaminade College Preparatory – 12		

PARTIAL LIST OF COLLEGES ATTENDED*

Babson College	George Washington University	Saint Louis University	University of Notre Dame
Barnard College	Georgetown University	Sewanee – University of the South	University of Pennsylvania
Berklee School of Music	Harvard University	Southern Methodist University	University of Richmond
Boston College	Indiana University	Stanford University	University of Southern California
Bowdoin College	Johns Hopkins University	Texas Christian University	University of St. Andrews
Butler University	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Tufts University	University of Texas
Carnegie Mellon University	Miami University	Tulane University	University of Virginia
Case Western Reserve University	Middlebury College	University of California at Los Angeles, Berkeley & Davis	University of Washington
Colgate University	New York University	University of Chicago	Vanderbilt University
Columbia University	Northwestern University	University of Miami	Wake Forest University
Cornell University	Notre Dame University	University of Michigan	Washington & Lee
Duke University	Oberlin College	University of Missouri	Washington University in St. Louis
Elon University	Princeton University	University of North Carolina	Wellesley College
Emory University	Purdue University		Yale University
Fordham University			*Last 5 years



“...each student is an individual with individual differences and an inherent right to develop those differences.”

THE FOUNDING MOTHERS

When the School Day Ends



Over seventy percent of Community families are dual-income or single working parents, making high-quality after school programming a necessity. From the “home away from home” feel of Extended Day to homework help to the exploration of favorite (and new!) hobbies and interests through mini classes, there’s something for every child after school.

After School Programs

More than 80% of the student body is involved in Community School’s After School Program. Three options are available: childcare, homework help, and enriching classes.

Extended Day (childcare)

Morning hours: 7:30 a.m. – 7:45 a.m. (*no charge*) – Supervised free time available for all grades in their homerooms. Children frequently play games, draw, read, or chat with friends.

Afternoon hours: After school – 6:00 p.m. (*fees apply*) – This after care program is offered for all grades. Extended Day strives to provide a supportive, home-like environment for children. Outdoor games, creative play, crafts, and quiet time for reading and/or homework are scheduled for the children. A daily snack is provided. Extended Day also meets during faculty professional days and conference days, as well as most school holidays from 7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Homework Club, for 3rd – 6th graders, assists students in the management and completion of homework and long-term assignments. It is not meant to be a tutoring class but rather an opportunity for students to practice and master time management and organizational skills. Students meet with experienced homework advisors to discuss assignments, organize materials, and establish long- and short-term goals. A nutritious snack and exercise are offered each day. Homework Club meets Monday through Thursday; two days minimum enrollment is required.

Mini Classes provide a variety of after-school experiences, with a wide range of offerings such as tennis, pickleball, art, gymnastics, chess, LEGO robotics, and dance. Topics will offer JK – 6th grade children an opportunity to explore exciting and enticing academic and non-academic areas. Classes are often taught by Community teachers, although community organizations such as STAGES, COCA, and Little Medical School also regularly provide classes.

Athletics

Community students can frequently be found playing soccer and basketball on after school sports teams, usually coached by interested parents in the early years. Beginning in third grade, official school teams including cross country, track and field, basketball, and volleyball are organized and coached by Community teachers and parent volunteers.

Summer Program

Community Summer Camps provide a wide variety of summertime experiences for ages 3 – 14, from academics to arts to just plain summer fun. Over 1,300 campers choose from a wide variety of mini camps, Play Camp (for our very youngest campers), and FUNDamentals, geared toward getting students ready for the upcoming school year. All camps are staffed with experienced teachers and take place on Community’s beautiful 18-acre campus.





“The differentiated learning approach at Community School allowed each of my children to thrive academically and socially while becoming kind and caring young adults. The school embraces the whole family, and we will forever treasure the time we spent at Community School.”

COMMUNITY SCHOOL
PARENT OF GRADUATE

The “Community” of Community

A growing body of research confirms the advantages of building a sense of community in school. Students directly benefit from this experience and are more likely to be academically motivated, to act ethically and altruistically, to develop social and emotional competencies, and to avoid problem behaviors.

Our students are responsible, caring, and vibrant children who learn how to work with and to lead others in an environment that appreciates diversity and promotes inclusion. Our programs and culture are intentionally designed to promote attributes such as respect, cooperation, responsibility, assertiveness, empathy, and self-control.

Service Learning

Community School’s Service Learning program focuses on good citizenship and an awareness of the community at large. The emphasis is on giving one’s time and energy rather than monetary donations. As students assist others, they also build leadership skills. They learn about strengths and needs in the local community, collaborate with peers to come up with possible solutions, and gain an understanding of how another person’s experience might be different than their own.

Each grade level participates in a service project. Recent examples include nursery students making animal treats and blankets for a local animal shelter; second graders creating a PSA and planting flowers to promote bee life; and fifth graders collecting books and reading them to young students at area schools.

Responsive Classroom

Classroom management is aided by the *Responsive Classroom* program, providing an evidence-based social and emotional approach to teaching that focuses on the strong link between academic success and social-emotional learning. Through this program, our teachers create safe and joyful learning communities where students develop strong social and academic skills and every student can thrive. Having a strong social-emotional curriculum equips children to take on challenging academics with greater confidence.

Family Groups & Buddies

Two programs promote student interaction and inclusivity across grade levels. The Family Groups program, beginning in 1st grade, builds groups comprised of a child from each grade with a teacher. Groups remain stable from year to year, so wonderful friendships are built as older students mentor younger ones. Our buddy program provides another meaningful way for older and younger students to interact beginning in JK. Starting in third grade, students become the “big buddy” and are role models for their younger buddies.

Family Involvement

Community School parents are highly engaged with their children’s education, whether driving on field trips, reading to a class, or serving on the Board of Trustees or on a Community Parent Association (CPA) committee. Community encourages all parents to become involved in the life of the school.

COMMITTEES

Book Covering, Repair & Discovery Center	Parent Diversity Group
Book Show	School Tours & New Parent Hospitality
Community Cares	School Store
Faculty Appreciation	Stan & Clayton Rice Night
Fundraising Events	Veterans Day
Goldy Day	Yearbook
Grandparents & Special Friends Day	

On Community's campus, teachers, staff, parents, and students all come together with the common goal of an exceptional educational experience.

That experience empowers the students now and inspires them well into the future to be their very best selves—academically, socially, and emotionally.

At Community School, we believe in diversity, inclusion, and the equitable treatment of all people.

Diversity Statement

Community School welcomes all families.

We are committed to diversity and inclusion in every aspect of our school by embracing the differences as well as the similarities of our students. Community School's goal is that students, families, faculty and staff feel welcomed, valued, and respected. Community School's philosophy is based on the belief that diversity and inclusivity enrich the mind, body, and spirit. Indeed, in our Founding Principles—written over 100 years ago—Community School pledges “to recognize the child as an individual with individual differences” and “to cultivate in each child a spirit of courtesy, an appreciation for individual differences, and respect for the opinion of others.”

As an early childhood and elementary school, Community School understands its critical role as one of a student's first experiences with the world. We encourage students to experience and share in the diverse backgrounds that exist within our school. Community School is committed to the recruitment and retention of excellent teachers with varied backgrounds that enrich the student and family experience. Through our rich curriculum and school programs, we introduce our community to a variety of cultures and experiences. In addition, we invite all students and families to share their heritage and traditions in our classrooms. Our character education urges students to create purposeful relationships within and beyond the classroom.

Community School seeks to prepare compassionate leaders for our multicultural nation and world. We offer an education that respects and values the perspectives of others and seeks to ensure all families and students feel that they belong.

Investing in the Future

“A great school allows each child to become the best version of themselves. This idea is at the heart of Community School. My children head out the door excited for school every single day. It’s their happy place.”

COMMUNITY SCHOOL
PARENT



All-Inclusive Tuition

Unlike some schools, Community’s tuition covers just about everything. All your child needs to start the school year is a backpack.

INCLUDED IN TUITION

Hot lunches	Books
Snacks	School supplies
Field trips	

In the interest of no surprises, there may be a few incidentals throughout the year such as an optional yearbook or a contribution toward a teacher gift. Additional, but reasonable, fees are charged for after school and summer programming. We also ask each family to make a tax-deductible gift to our Annual Fund to help support our incredible educational programs.

Financial Aid

Community School is committed to assisting families who are not able to pay the full tuition.

The financial aid program at Community School helps make it possible for students who would not otherwise be able to attend Community to access support that helps to bridge the gap between what their families can contribute and the cost of full tuition.

Financial aid dollars come from private donations, endowment income, and named scholarship funds.

Nearly \$1 million is allocated each year in student aid, with awards ranging in amount based on demonstrated need and the availability of funds.

A careful analysis of a family’s complete financial information, including all sources of funds available to contribute to the child’s education, is conducted by the Financial Aid Committee.

Admissions decisions are made independently from requests for aid.



The Founding Mothers

A measure of Community School's success can be seen on the faces of those who matter most, the children, but the story began in 1914 with a group of intelligent, idealistic women. They have gone down in the school's history as "the Founding Mothers." The Founding Mothers had a dream of a more educationally progressive school than what existed at that time in St. Louis. They felt that the "rigid, formal approach" to education could and should be changed into an exciting adventure where wonder leads. They wrote the ten Guiding Principles which Community School has embodied for over 100 years.

The Ten Guiding Principles

1. The school should recognize the child as an individual with individual differences, and an inherent right to develop these differences.
2. The school should set up the schedule with freedom to develop these differences. There should be freedom, but freedom with control.
3. The school should see to it that the child must be trained to become an independent thinker, to express himself/herself freely and accurately, free of embarrassment or self-consciousness, and to assume responsibility and carry it through to a successful end.
4. The school should provide a classroom atmosphere of child-teacher cooperation, as opposed to the teacher-dominated classroom. The teacher should be a source of informed assistance to whom a child can go for direction in his/her search for desired material.
5. The school should have teachers sufficiently rich in background to enable them to provide classroom material that will spark a child's imagination, keep it alive, and encourage each child to want to know more.
6. The school should make a child aware of his/her immediate world, his/her place in that environment, and his/her responsibility in global issues.
7. The school should cultivate in each child a spirit of courtesy, an appreciation for individual differences, and respect for the opinion of others.
8. The school should open a child's eyes to the wonders of nature, the stars, the universe and the world around them.
9. The student must be led to appreciate the beauty in literature and the fine arts and should be encouraged to create any or all of them.
10. The child should be made to understand that the so-called tool subjects (reading, writing, and arithmetic) are means of securing the goals toward which one strives and to this end each child must become proficient.



Admission Events

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, November 6

CONNECT WITH COMMUNITY

Tuesday, November 16

Wednesday, January 12

Tuesday, January 25

More Information

Contact the Director of Admission for a personal tour or more information:

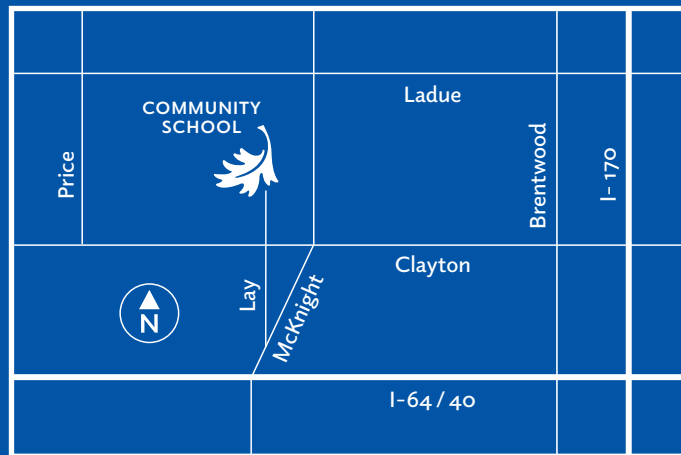
Dana Scott Saulsberry

(314) 991-0005 x315

admissions@communityschool.com

Location

Community is conveniently located just off Clayton Road, one mile west of Brentwood Boulevard. Easily accessible from I-64 or I-170, the school is tucked away at the north end of Lay Road.



900 Lay Road, St. Louis, MO 63124

(314) 991-0005 || (314) 991-1512 fax

CommunitySchool.com