

O'Connor Learning Center CommUNITY School

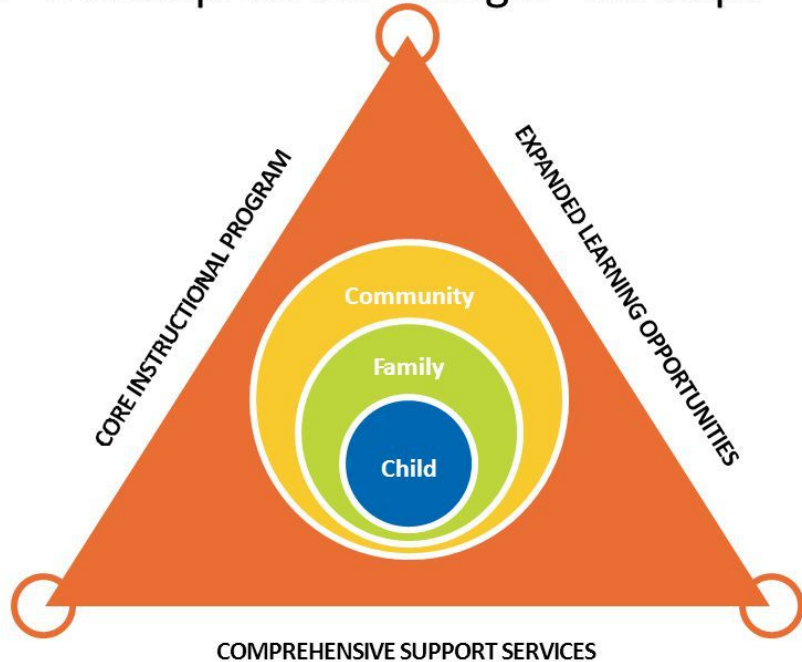
COMMUNITYSCHOOLS

A partnership between Grand Island Public Schools and community partners



What is a CommUNITY School?

The “Developmental Triangle” Concept



A Community School is the product of *partnerships and shared leadership* between the school, the community, students and families, all coming together to address the broad spectrum of needs presented.

Our focus is to provide education, services, supports and opportunities that lead to improved student learning, stronger families and healthier communities.

Community schools have a vision of students succeeding in school, graduating, and becoming productive parents, workers, and citizens. As they work toward this vision, community schools align school and community resources so that the essential conditions for learning are in place.

Why CommUNITY Schools?

- Students are better able to receive a high-quality education and the opportunities that go with it, if they are ready and able to learn. **That means having enough to eat, a safe place to live, and a healthy body and mind.**
- Families have a major influence on their children's achievement. When schools, families, and community groups work together to support learning, **children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer, and like school more.**
- When families show interest in their child's learning, students display more **positive attitudes toward school and behave better in and out of school.**
- A "Whole Child" framework includes principles such as equity, inclusiveness and partnerships between the school and community. **This includes: Shared Leadership/Governance, The Whole Child Perspective, Responsiveness to needs, Partnerships, Integration, High Quality Programs and Services, Family Engagement, Evaluation, Sustainability.**

Examples of Services & Programs

EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES	HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES	FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Cooking & Nutrition Class● Parenting Class● English Language Class● Family Literacy● Child Development● Computer Class● GED/High School Diploma● STEAM Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Dental Checks● Physicals● Immunizations● Food & Hygiene Pantry● Therapy in school● Vision checks● Car Seat Checks● Financial Assistance Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Parent Advisory Group● Family Nights● Literacy Kits● Parent Volunteer Program● Parent-led Community Cafe's

Goals for Parent Engagement



- **STRATEGY 1** – Create a welcoming environment
- **STRATEGY 2** – Practice two-way communication
- **STRATEGY 3** – Facilitate respectful interactions
- **STRATEGY 4** – Share power and responsibility

Parent/Guardian Volunteer Program

The goals of the GIPS volunteer program are to:

- Provide staff with assistance as requested
- Provide students with an enriched learning environment
- Enhance community interest and support for public education

Details:

- Volunteers must be 18 years old.
- Volunteer times will be 30-60 minutes.
- Volunteers must be parents/guardians of an OLC student.
- Volunteers can only volunteer in their child's class.
- Volunteer information must be in the school's Synergy system.
- No background check required for parents/guardians.
- Volunteers must read the GIPS Volunteer Handbook.
- Volunteers will sign in and out in the school office and wear a name tag.
- Safety & Confidentiality are very important!
- No use of phone allowed in the classroom

- If you are interested, get a form from the O'Connor Learning Center office or click [here](#).
- Valerie will contact you to set up a day/time to volunteer.

MONTHLY PRIZES!

- *Your name will be entered in a drawing each time you volunteer!*



Community Cafe

A Community Cafe is when parents and community members convene around protective factors that are needed for children to thrive. These factors include parental resiliency, knowledge of parenting and child development, social connections, access to basic needs and mental health, and healthy social and emotional development.

Community Café Model:

- ★ Everyone shares a meal
- ★ Participants sit together in small groups
- ★ Groups will discuss a question focused on one of the protective factors to discuss and learn together
- ★ Participants share discussion with the larger group
- ★ Conversations about these protective factors can help build common language, cultural relevance and grow community culture that strengthens families.
- ★ Parent volunteers are asked to help plan and facilitate these meetings, and they will receive a stipend and training to do so.
- ★ **The goal is to share collective knowledge and wisdom for a better future together.**

Our first Community Cafe will be in January 2022! *Childcare, Food, and Spanish translation provided!!*

Parent Advisory Meeting

Agenda Items:

- Introductions
- Announcements
- Feedback and Ideas for the CommUNITY School
 - Planning family nights
 - Contributing to the newsletter
 - Parent involvement
 - Create goals for the school
 - Questions, Concerns

O'Connor Learning Center Staff



- **Amy Richards, Early Learning Coordinator**

Amy is happy to help families with questions or concerns on your child's school experience. She works hard to make sure your children are learning in a safe and welcoming environment.



- **Nancy Jimenez, Social Worker**

Nancy is a trained mental health professional who can assist with mental health concerns, behavioral concerns, positive behavioral support, academic, and classroom support. She is also available to meet with parents when they have concerns or need resources.



- **Valerie Porto, Family and Community Engagement Coordinator**

Valerie creates partnerships and coordinates programs to provide services at OLC CommUNITY School. Her role includes family and parent engagement, eliminating barriers, and resource development.

Questions about the OLC CommUNITY School?

Contact Valerie at vporto@gips.org or call 308-385-5655

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