

Developing a Community

The Elementary school years are brimming with opportunities for building long-lasting, positive school relationships and attitudes. Time spent building friendships and establishing social and academic confidence paves the way for a bright future.

Community Meetings

- Weekly Socratic-style meetings help students to connect with one another by discussing their interests and their accomplishments. This quality time allows for planning, problem-solving, compliments, and shared views. Community circle is a dedicated time to generate clear, specific expectations for active listening in groups, respectful communication, expressions of kindness, gratitude, and working together as a community of learners.

Peer Mentoring

Students in the Elementary classes may be assigned a peer mentor. These mentors are high school students who are skilled in an area of specific interest to the younger student. Their weekly meetings offer opportunities for leadership and foster self-confidence and unique bonds across the grades.

Animal Education and Junior Rangers

Students learn from Senior Rangers about animal care and behavior through a structured 20- minute presentation, Q & A, and opportunities to interact with animals on our farm. Farm Fridays Bi-monthly visits to the farm allow our students to safely engage with the horses, goats, and chickens. Special Fridays offer Stories with Steve, the resident goat. In grades 5-6, students may become a Junior Ranger to assist with chores on the farm.

Horticulture and Environmental Sustainability

Each class enjoys outdoor learning time to participate in gardening, farm-to-table, and to continue lessons in science, math, and social studies. Classes take on a challenge each year to research and solve an environmental problem in our community.

Events

Elementary students look forward to special events throughout the school year that foster a sense of school “family” including the Book Fair, Family Fun Night carnival, the Amazing Race, and moving-up days. Students look forward to field trips and guest speakers to enhance learning.