

# Community School

*Education. Innovation. Exploration.*

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Celebrating 40 years of extraordinary education!

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## Fall Open House

Date: Tuesday, November 15  
Time: Registration at 10:00 a.m. Program and tours at 10:15 a.m.  
Location: 7815 Williamson Road

Please join us for a brief introductory session followed by parent- and student-guided tours through our classrooms. Talk with parents, students, and staff. Discover why Community School has been the Valley's most innovative and dynamic learning environment for 40 years. The open house is a great introduction to Community School and a nice opportunity to find out what our current families think about our school. Homeschool families interested in our enrichment classes are welcome to join us at the open house. For more information about this event, email me or contact the school office at 563-5036.

## Performance by The Hudson Trio

Date & Time: Wednesday, October 26, at 7:30 pm  
Location: Talmadge Recital Hall, Hollins University  
Tickets: \$16.50 each, available through our website ([www.communityschool.net](http://www.communityschool.net)).

The October performance of our new "Fall into the Arts Series" features The Hudson Trio, a New York-based piano trio comprised of Vladimir Valjarevic on piano, Caroline Chin on violin, and Robert Burkhart, "the adventurous cellist." Musical selections will include chamber music pieces from Mozart, Mendelssohn, and some contemporary composers, as well as a few Hungarian ballads. A generous local donor has underwritten this event, so 100% of the proceeds will go towards Community School's new Yamaha MIE music lab.

In addition, we are delighted to announce that Vladimir Valjarevic, Caroline Chin, and Robert Burkhart have offered to donate their time and talent to conduct master classes in piano and strings for our students. RSO Maestro David Stewart Wiley has also generously volunteered his time to accompany the strings master class. We have invited students from select area music programs to join these classes.

# Highlights of Campus Activities

## "From Boheme to Broadway"

The first event in our new "Fall Into The Arts Series" took place on September 8 and featured RSO Maestro David Steward Wiley, soprano Leah Marer Wiley, and flute virtuoso Julee Hickcox in a performance of "From Boheme to Broadway." These three talented professionals donated their time and talent to help raise money for Community School's new music lab.

## CHS Moves to New Facility

Our sister school, Community High School for Arts and Academics, re-opened this fall in a beautiful new facility at 302 Campbell Avenue. CHS occupies the ground floor of the completely renovated warehouse, including a wonderful new theatre space. For more details, visit the CHS website at [www.communityhigh.net](http://www.communityhigh.net).

## Fall Festival Trips

Our students, teachers, and parents will head off next week on our annual Fall Festival trips. These experiential learning opportunities take our students out into the environment for camping, hiking, biking, nature studies, and team building. This year, groups will visit Douthat State Part, Watoga State Park, and Camp Alta Mons.

## Bolivian Exchange Students Arrive This Month

For the fourteenth year, we are delighted to welcome students from Santa Cruz, Bolivia, to our school. Twelve visiting students will stay with CS families and attend classes here through early December. Students from our middle school program will travel to Santa Cruz during the second semester.

## Peek in Our Classrooms

(A quick look at just a few of the varied learning activities occurring in our classrooms right now.)

Early learners are creating their own colorful fall foliage using bleeding tissue paper, recording their own sounds as they learn about their five senses, and visiting The Booker T. Washington National Monument and a local farm with their middle elementary buddies to compare farms of today with those of "yesteryear."

Lower elementary students are exploring colors and color words in a bilingual science unit, reading *Mouse Paint*, and mixing colors while creating their own mouse paintings. Middle elementary students are using D.B. Johnson's "Henry" picture books (based on the real life adventures of Henry David Thoreau) to study nouns, examining farms and animals, collecting items for a local animal shelter, and planting seeds. Upper elementary students are developing observation skills by describing items in nature and having partners try to locate the objects based on the written descriptions.

Middle school students are participating in an Ellis Island simulation in a unit on immigration; designing a construction project using metric measurements and using another student's design to manufacture a project; contrasting historical fact and fiction by reading *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* and *House of Tailors*; locating 25 species of native trees and depicting them with proper scientific nomenclature and facts about habitat and ecology; reading *Company Aytch* and *Soldier's Heart* in

their study of the Civil War; and finding supporting arguments from text and using parenthetical citations.

Middle School students are also wrapping up elective classes on The Crooked Road Heritage Music Trail, robotics, wood chip carving, digital photography, and exploring local cemeteries as windows into local culture and history. For more detailed descriptions of these electives, link to the October 4 edition of *Quick Notes*, our weekly school newsletter to parents, at <http://www.communityschool.net/documents/QN-October-4-2011.pdf>.

## Admissions Information

### Mid-Year Transfers

We currently have space for a few students in our middle school classrooms (ages 10 to 14). Interested families should contact me to arrange a parent tour and student visit.

Our preschool through upper elementary classes are full, but we are accepting students on the waiting lists for these levels.

### Admissions for Fall 2012

We are currently accepting applications for students ages three through middle school for fall 2012. Preschool applicants should turn three by September 30, 2012. We consider students for enrollment on a first-come, first-served basis based on the date of application. All applicants must complete a classroom visit as part of the admissions process. Financial aid applications for the 2012-2013 school year will be available in January 2012.

### Enrichment Classes for Homeschool Students

We will post the class schedule and fee information for second semester on our website in mid-January. For more information on our enrichment classes, please contact me or join us at the upcoming open house on November 15.

## On the CS Website

Visit our website at [www.communityschool.net](http://www.communityschool.net) for links to teacher blogs; weekly school newsletters; an up-to-date, detailed school calendar; and alumni information.

If you do not wish to continue receiving our admissions updates, please notify me at the email listed below.

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