

Community School

Education. Innovation. Exploration.

Celebrating 40 years of extraordinary education!

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

I strongly recommend that parents interested in fall 2012 preschool spaces attend this open house and submit applications as soon as possible to avoid waiting list placement. Due to several factors (including anticipated sibling enrollments and priority for fall 2011 waiting list applicants), we will have fewer spaces for new applicants in our fall 2012 preschool classes.

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.

News and Activity Highlights

New Programs and Facilities to Be Announced

Come to the Open House on November 15 to learn about our exciting plans for new program and facility development in the next two years!

CHS Receives Grant for Original Folk Opera

(Opportunities for local youth and adult singers are still available.)

Our sister school, Community High School for Arts and Academics, recently received a \$5000 grant from Freedom First for the folk opera "Miss Lucy." Bluegrass musician Tom Ohmsen, who teaches theory classes at the high school, and jazz pianist William Penn have co-written the music for "Miss Lucy." The high school's theatre instructor, Les Epstein, wrote the libretto and is directing the production. The opera is based on the story of Lucy Addison in the days of segregated Roanoke. Les has cast the major roles, including professionals such as tenor Benjamin Bongers, who sings frequently with the San Francisco Opera. Community High will premiere "Miss Lucy" this year in the June M. McBroom Theatre in the high school's beautiful new facility in downtown Roanoke. Les is still

looking for a few youth and adult singers for the chorus, with opportunities for small solos available. If you or your child are interested in participating, please contact les@communityhigh.net .

Alumna Featured in AP Article

Becca M. Allred, a graduate of Community School and Community High School, was featured in a recent Associated Press article on young women changing the face of the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and math). This article was picked up by *The Roanoke Times* and appeared on the front page of the October 24 edition. Becca is currently a second year, doctoral student in chemistry at Yale University. You can find the entire article at <http://www.crescent-news.com/ap%20general%20news/2011/10/18/women-making-slow-sure-strides-in-science-math> or check out a copy of *The Roanoke Times*. You can find additional alumni information on our website at http://www.communityschool.net/alum_messages.htm .

Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon and Art Show

Each year on the day before Thanksgiving, Community School mounts a school-wide art show and hosts a potluck luncheon for the greater school community, including current and alumni families, extended family members and friends, faculty and staff, and Community High families. This tradition allows us to celebrate the creativity of our current students while coming together as a community to give thanks. Similar community activities throughout the year help develop the strong sense of “family” and belonging that make our school such a unique and treasured learning environment.

Peek in Our Classrooms

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

In art, students are continuing their creative journaling—recycling and repurposing old books into works of art that express each student’s individuality and enable them to visually communicate their learning experiences throughout the year. This project is extremely popular with students of all ages. The students are also working on their individual pieces for our upcoming student art show. These multi-media pieces emphasize the fall color palette and seasonal materials. Upper elementary students are learning about perspective (fore-, mid-, and background) while creating collages out of recycled materials. Middle elementary students have been working in three-dimensions and using overlapping techniques while creating paper sculptures and simple collages. Lower elementary students, also working in three dimensions, are working with leaves and creating their own “bugs.” Middle school students are studying watercolors and the use of watercolor pencils.

In music, elementary students are starting instrumental lessons: piano for the lower elementary and recorders and ukuleles for the upper elementary. Middle elementary students will start a drum unit in January. Some middle school classes are finishing a music composition unit, transcribing their new creations using Finale Notepad software. On October 7, all our students lunched al fresco while enjoying a hammered dulcimer concert by a local folk musician. This concert wrapped up a middle school elective on traditional regional music and The Crooked Road Heritage Music Trail.

In drama, some middle school students are exploring the use of neutral masks, delaying the use of spoken words and focusing on communication through gesture and movement. Mask exercises incorporate the four elements (fire, water, air, earth), animal movements, and human actions. Elementary students are currently developing characters with costumes and props. Middle elementary through middle school students are also using these characters to work toward group-devised scenarios, introducing them to script writing and directing. Early Learner students are developing vocal and physical experience through drama games.

In Spanish, all our students are interacting with and learning from our eleven Bolivian exchange students, who will be here at Community School through December 6. Younger students are learning the vocabulary for body parts in conjunction with a cultural unit on All Saints and the Day of the Dead. Middle school students are working on “ar” and “er” verb conjugations and studying the irregular verb “to go.”

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 continue to accept 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 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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