



Muddy Creek Charter School

Annual Report 2022 - 2023

presented to CSD Board of Directors, 01/2023

Vision

Muddy Creek Charter School is a rural public school dedicated to the integration of an outstanding academic program with its community – the land and its people. We offer a joyful and creative educational experience where engaged students practice the skills they will need to be effective citizens and stewards in the future. Muddy Creek Charter School will serve as a model for preserving schools in rural communities.

Mission

Muddy Creek Charter School was founded to provide an outstanding K-5 public educational program for children who reside in and around the Muddy Creek Watershed. In multi-age classrooms, the school will deliver a place-based, project-based, integrated arts and science curriculum grounded in its rural agricultural setting and commitment to community service. Diverse learning styles will be fostered. MCCS will be supported in its efforts by forging and maintaining partnerships with local landowners and agencies, OSU researchers and the community at large. Our success will be our children. The students of MCCS will not only meet or surpass the state benchmarks but will also have a deeper understanding of their place in the world as demonstrated by portfolios of high quality projects, and they will be well prepared to transition into other schools for their continued education.

Leadership

Executive Director: Josh Stauber

MCCS Board members:

President: Lester Oehler

Treasurer: Karen Steele

Secretary: Kathy Becker-Blease

Additional members: Megan Irwin, Jamie Hahn, James Anderson, Jacque Krumrey, Erin McMullen

Business Manager: Tonya Mosher

Brief historical perspective

Muddy Creek Charter School opened its doors in September of 2008. As stated in the charter agreement, the mission of the school is to provide an excellent and innovative public educational program for children grades K-5 sponsored by the Corvallis School District. It is aimed at, but not restricted to, children who reside in and around the Muddy Creek and Beaver Creek Watershed. Muddy Creek also services students from the surrounding areas including Philomath, Monroe, and Albany School Districts.

This year we continue to see a great deal of challenges surrounding teaching and learning following the pandemic. With support from the Corvallis School District we are working to overcome these hurdles and will continue to build an effective and respectful working relationship with CSD. With continued support from CSD we are positioned to improve our facilities and strengthen our programs to meet the social and educational needs of our staff and students.

Staffing

MCCS has six classrooms K-5. Each classroom has a full time teacher as well as a part-time classroom assistant. All grades receive additional learning in PE, Art, Library, SEL, and Agricultural Science. We have available Special Education, and Behavior Support instructional offerings for identified students. The administration consists of an Executive Director, Facilities manager, Technology Director, and an Operations Assistant. We subcontract out financial matters. The District provides special education services.

All of our teachers meet the requirements for a charter school and are currently licensed through TSPC.

Financials

The recently completed audit for the 2021-22 School year has been completed and shared with the District.

SIA funds are currently being utilized for a full time counselor.

Attendance and Enrollment

We currently have 105 students enrolled. We have a max enrollment of 120 students.

Attendance for this year per grade:

K- 86.7%

1- 89.4%

2- 89.81%

3- 85.86%

4- 91.61%

5- 91.23%

Avg. - 89.16%

Academics

Our goal is to prepare our students by providing a solid foundation of core skills, and a love of learning that will support them as they transition into secondary education.

English Language Arts

This year we have continued using the *Collaborative Classroom Curriculum* (CCC) for English and Language Arts. Corvallis School District has been using this curriculum for some time now, and we believe that our students will benefit from being aligned with the District. The District has been supportive with providing us professional development as we work hard to implement this curriculum. We previously partnered with the Willamette Valley Dyslexia Center to provide training and material to support small group instruction for students. Classroom Assistants are trained in these techniques which they will utilize in the classroom to support more students.

Math

Our math program consists of *Bridges for Grades K- 5. Bridges in Mathematics: Second Edition*, is a comprehensive K-5 mathematics curriculum that aids teachers in fully implementing the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics in a rigorous, coherent, and engaging way. The curriculum focuses on developing students' deep understanding of mathematical concepts, proficiency with key skills, and the ability to solve complex problems. They learn the fluency of facts, and how to use them in all problems. It is hands-on, and develops a community of mathematicians. Students take pre and post assessments and learn at their own pace along with group instruction. The program has been successful and students leave Muddy Creek with a strong mathematical understanding.

Science (includes place-based projects)

With project learning students cycle between Science and Social Studies topics. Students engage with a topic, then question and investigate (conduct field work), and share what they have learned. Whenever possible, projects are investigated through the lens of the place where children live or where our school is located. **The projects also give children an opportunity to apply additional core subject skills in an integrated context.** To aid in this learning, Muddy Creek has hired a half-time certified agricultural science teacher that provides weekly instruction to all grade levels.

Technology

With grant funding MCCA has achieved a 1 to 1 laptop program for all grade levels.

Library

Library services are available to classrooms. Our part-time librarian works as an integrationist and provides support to teachers following the ALA standards.

Art Integration

The Art Integration Specialist works closely with the K-5 teachers to develop projects and assessments that are integrated with all core subjects. Art integrated place and project based lessons are created using a wide variety of mediums. The art curriculum is designed to develop the unique mental capabilities which foster flexible, divergent, original, and imaginative thinking. The developmental stages and individual needs of each child are considered and celebrated. Art projects are designed to enhance learning in all subject areas, MCCS believes art has intrinsic value and is worth learning for its own sake. Art at MCCS encourages inquiry, discovery and wonder. All K-5 students are offered a wide range of experiences in color, design, drawing, painting, sculpture and crafts. MCCS has invested a great deal in a well stocked art classroom, with materials and devices allowing for a wide range of creative possibilities.

Assessments

STAR Testing:

We are currently in the process of using the District STAR assessment to assess and track the progress of our students. This year all students will be taking STAR assessments in the fall and spring.

Lexia Core:

We have implemented the Lexia Core reading assessment program. This was a targeted area of improvement and with the adoption of the program we can now assess student reading progress. The Lexia Core program is adaptable and can both challenge students who excel and support students who may struggle.

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium:

Our 3rd-5th grade students will be participating in SBAC Testing this year.

Community Engagement

Community involvement is a key aspect that is fostered by using technology in promoting communication with the greater learning community. This is achieved by providing a monthly school-wide newsletter and updates on our website. Additionally, monthly reports to the school board provide information to parents in an open forum.

COVID Response & Impact

This academic year continues with a great deal of disruptions for the MCCS community regarding regular attendance. Many students and staff members are struggling with social, emotional, and behavioral issues within the classroom. In addition, we also have limited substitutes and are often forced to leverage support staff to cover staffing. We know that this is not unique to MCCS, and are working hard to support our students and staff.

Summary

Despite the challenges that the past couple of years have presented, MCCA is steadfast in our goal of providing a quality onsite learning opportunity for all students. This year we have continued to align with the District in regards to utilizing the same ELA and Math curriculum, as well as aligning our calendar to support professional learning opportunities and collaboration with District schools. This will continue our goal of building connections with the District in order to provide more learning opportunities for our staff, and our students. Additionally, we have been fortunate to utilize SIA funds to retain our full time counselor, budgeted to provide additional support hours for classroom assistants. We are also working on ways to partner with OSU to bring more mental health support for our students. At this point one of our challenges is being able to provide a safe space for students that consistently struggle with their behavior inside the classroom. MCCA continues to provide a unique hands-on and project based learning experience within small cohorts. The setting of our campus allows us to support rural families from multiple Districts.