

Community Schools in Las Cruces

What is a community school?

Shared Space

	Typical School	Community School	Community Schools in LCPS
Shared Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School often shuts down on evenings and weekends, and is closed in the summer Challenging for community to use school space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School is open year round and in the evenings and weekends as a hub for the community, including streamlined access to the school space for neighborhood meetings, public lectures, and other community events. This is supported by a full time Community School Administrator. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lynn Middle School hosts a variety of public activities, such as neighborhood gatherings, town hall meetings with elected officials, neighborhood walks, and Great Conversations.
Extended Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning takes place in the classroom during the regular school day Instruction is based in a standardized curriculum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum is culturally relevant and community based Learning extends beyond the classroom and into the community through field trips, project based learning, and guest lectures. Before and after-school programs are abundant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lynn has added ENLACE to its curriculum, brings in community speakers and groups to lead workshops, and supports project-based learning for students in the community Lynn added 20 hours of extra-curricular instructional time to the school week in the 2017-18 school year
Family Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few families participate in family meetings such as PTO/SAC, and parent-teacher conference attendance is low Families often feel disconnected and that they do not have a voice in school decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families are invited into schools as partners; their knowledge and culture is respected Families have an authentic voice in the schools vision and direction Families feel like an integral part of the school community and have regular communication with school staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lynn’s Principal hosts weekly “Facebook live” chats with families as well as regular in person meetings Lynn staff and community was trained to conduct home-visits Lynn hosted multiple sessions of “First Teacher” workshops for families

Wrap-Around Services

Restorative Practices

Shared Leadership

Typical School	Community School	Community Schools in LCPS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many families struggle to meet basic needs, and students often come to school concerned about things like hunger, healthcare, and homelessness Students often miss school because they are sick 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School strategically partners with community agencies and organizations to meet family and student needs, offering “wrap-around” services right at the school Schools often develop family resource centers that provide resources and referrals to students and families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lynn is developing the first school based health center at a middle school in Las Cruces that will offer physical, mental, and dental care on-site Lynn partners with Roadrunner Food Bank and Families and Youth, Inc. to distribute boxes of food to needy families and free dinners to hungry students
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are often suspended, but nothing happens to treat their underlying misbehavior so they make the same mistake over and over 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are held accountable for their actions, but also provided with support to deal with underlying causes of misbehavior through a trauma-informed, restorative lens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lynn is the only school in LCPS to have an on-site JARC unit providing case-management to students Launching a restorative “cool-down” room as part of LCPS restorative justice cohort
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decisions are often made without input from students, families, and community members. The federal and state governments dictate a top-down vision of education success 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vision and direction is bottom-up, emerging from local students, staff, families, and community members Shared leadership gives all stakeholders a voice in decision-making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over one thousand stakeholders participated in a deep needs and asset assessment to identify community priorities A strategic plan is being collaboratively developed with stakeholders based on community priorities Lynn is developing a House Council that will give students a voice in school affairs, and a democratic leadership team



For More Information about Community Schools in Las Cruces, please contact David Greenberg at Dgreenberg@lcps.net or Mary Parr-Sanchez at Marysanc@lcps.net

Also See: <http://www.communityschools.org/>

