



A warm welcome...

From our Head of School

2022–23 marked a banner year for Chengdu International School! We turned 25! As we started the new year looking forward to celebrating our big anniversary, we chose the school year theme "Together." As a school community of staff, students and parents, we had all been through so much after three years of Covid challenges. Refocusing on what it truly meant in being "Together" through times of both challenge and joy was what we wanted to focus on all through the year.

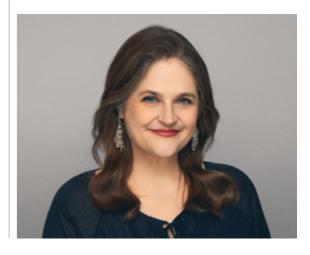
The first semester continued to be a challenge with Covid restrictions limiting the opportunities we had on campus and even required a start of the year with learning online, but we rose to the task! Even in challenging times with Covid and limited group size requirements, we creatively found ways throughout the semester to celebrate community through our many events, such as a combined International Day and Fall Festival, Parent-Teacher Conferences, and concerts. At times we had to celebrate together virtually, but we made it happen! As we moved into the second semester, the world changed again and BOOM we were right back to offering our full program of events and activities. We welcomed back travel for sports, extracurriculars, special events like the annual Fine Arts Festival in Tianjin and Senior Departure Seminar.

The highlight of the year for Chengdu in 2022–23 had to be our big 25 Year Celebration! We welcomed special guests, parents and visitors from all around the city of Chengdu onto the campus for the celebration. Following a special welcoming ceremony, the day was filled with performances, many activities and booths, and great food. We welcomed more than 750 staff, parents and guests onto the campus for an awesome day of fun and celebration.

We embrace our LifePlus Qualities for Life as the key to what we believe and value. Our Qualities for Life are Connection, Courage, Compassion, Service, Purpose, Humility, Discernment, Curiosity and Persistence. We recognize our students, teachers and staff displaying these characteristics each month.

Chengdu has been blessed with a community that not only cares for learning, but most importantly cares for one another and always comes "Together" in all that we do. As we look to the future and 25 more amazing years, we will move forward knowing we can reach the greatest heights possible when we come together as a community.

Sincerely, **Dr. Jennifer Birdsong** *Head of School*









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Growing up in Chengdu

A brief history

1997

Small beginnings

The very first international school in Chengdu, we started in 1997 with just 18 students and four full-time teachers. Within three years we'd grown to 72 students and had expanded our secondary program to include Grades 7–10.



2002

Moving with the times

Our growth continued, and we moved to the Jinguan Xincheng School. This was our first opportunity to offer Pre K–12 programs. Three years later, we were on the move again, relocating to the Zhonghai International Community campus.

2007

Recognized for excellence

We became the first international school in western China to receive accreditation by the US-based Western Association of Schools and Colleges. We were also the first school to be certified to teach foreign students by the Ministry of Education, and shortly after were accredited by China's National Center for School Curriculum and Textbook Development.

2013

Rooted in the city

We outgrew our facilities yet again, and relocated to Tonggui Road in Jinjiang district for five years. In 2018 we moved closer to the bustling heart of the city of Chengdu, settling into our current campus located on Shuinianhe Nanlu.

Part of the LifePlus family

LifePlus endorsement

- Tianjin International School
- Yantai Huasheng Int'l school
- International School of Qingdao
- International School of Wuxi
- Wuhan Yangtze Int'l School
- 6 Chengdu International School
- The WellSpring Private School



VAE

Through LifePlus, our school is accredited by Cognia, a world-renowned educational body that recognizes the incredibly high standards of our work and continues to evaluate our performance. LifePlus also benefits us in three important areas.

First, LifePlus helps us to innovate: sharing research, knowledge and ideas. Second, LifePlus is a truly international and robust setup that lets us focus on what we do best: growing servant leaders of outstanding character, competence and calling. Third, LifePlus makes Chengdu International School more than a local school: connecting us to a worldwide network of talent, knowledge and support. To learn more, visit lifeplusworldwide.com

Cognia

Chengdu International School is accredited by Cognia, the largest education improvement organization in the world—demonstrating our commitment to learners, teachers, leaders and communities. Being Cognia-accredited, the incredibly high standards of our work are recognized globally, and our performance continually evaluated—raising us higher, taking our students further.



Who we are

Demographics

2022-23 Peak enrollment and student nationalities

Passport country	Count
Australia	3
Brazil	11
Canada	15
China (Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan)	42
Italy	2

Passport country	Count
Japan	16
Malaysia	3
Poland	3
Russia	3
Singapore	2

Passport country	Count
South Korea	123
Switzerland	3
USA	38

Grand total: 254

Staff nationalities for 2022-23

Canada	2
China	58
France	1

India	1
Philippines	1
South Korea	3

1
1
27

Number of staff within each category

Faculty and staff total	93
Teaching	58
Support staff	29
Admin staff	6

Staff degrees within each category

Bachelor's	61
Master's	22
Doctorate	1
Others	9



Our annual report 2022–23

What we do and why

Our values

At Chengdu International School, we desire for our students to grow in more than knowledge. That's why we spend time and great care investing in character education and development for all our staff and students. The LifePlus 9 Qualities for Life help guide everything we do. From administrators to kindergartners, we strive to be...

People who learn

People who love

People who lead

We are purposeful, curious and discerning.

We are connected, courageous and compassionate.

We are *humble* and *persistent* in *service*.



LifePlus 9 Qualities for Life

I treat myself and every person

with intrinsic value and purpose.

talents that I have to accomplish

• I strategically use the gifts and

bigger purposes. • *Ilook* for

explanations and I am not

content with appearances

deeper meaning and

Purpose



I investigate and explore by asking questions and critically thinking about the answers. • I am eager for authentic knowledge,

wisdom and understanding.
• *I refuse* to let others do my thinking for me or cheat myself out of learning opportunities.

Discernment



I can see and understand people, things or situations clearly.

• *I use knowledge* to make wise choices and judgments, speak the truth and live with integrity.

Connection

or easy answers.



I value people and so I invest in communication, language learning and understanding the cultures in which I live.

• *I collaborate* effectively and respectfully with people from any culture. • *I build and maintain* healthy relationships with others in my life.

Compassion

Curiosity



I show empathy for others and look for ways to make a difference. • I listen carefully and think deeply to determine the best response or action.

• *I will communicate* my beliefs with clarity and respect.

Courage



I take risks and boldly do what is best. • I am willing to ask questions and make mistakes.

• *I persist* in thinking, inquiring and discussing even in the presence of threat or fear.

Humility



I have an accurate picture of my abilities, thinking neither too highly nor too lowly of myself.

I acknowledge my limitations and my need for help, as well as accept criticism and demonstrate a teachable spirit.

I demonstrate good sportsmanship.

Service



I make available my gifts, talents, time, energy and enthusiasm to serve the needs of those around me. • I show love towards the world around me by being a responsible caretaker of our resources.

Persistence



Istrive for excellence and practice diligence to get things right; I don't give up. • I respectfully communicate until I am understood and question until I understand. • I approach challenges with tenacity, creativity and thinking.

A year of purpose, curiosity and discernment

We learn

ECC

From outdoor gardening to a greater emphasis on play-based learning and increased parent involvement, our Early Childhood Center flourished during the 22-23 school year. Parents were invited to participate in cultural learning days, to read to their students during literacy week, and to enjoy our parent showcases. This year we also added after school clubs for our youngest students. We were excited to take field trips that included learning about pandas and a visit to the local fire department. One of the foundations of our ECC program is a focus on fostering a love of learning through social and emotional development and play. Classes are conducted in English as a firm foundation to Western schooling and a common language in the international setting. Along with math, science and social studies, our Kindergarten classes focused on the use of the English language and alphabet letters and sounds, with the goal of reading independently by the end of the year. Students in Junior Kindergarten and Foundations also learned the key aspects of early literacy and built strong relationships with their peers by practicing how to share, play safely, express themselves verbally and to advocate for their needs.











Elementary

In Elementary, we focused on our "Together" theme for the year. Students and teachers creatively wound the theme into assembly talks, our Chinese New Year Celebration and into our elementary concerts. Learning happened in and out of the classroom with trips to the zoo, aquarium, museums, the Forest School and hiking up QingCheng Mountain. In Writing, students focused on the structure and process of writing. Teachers partnered with parents using resources such as Raz-Kids and IXL. Students continued to enjoy the Science Fusion curriculum and the hands- on science opportunities through unit wide experiments. The teachers and students also enjoyed utilizing STEM activities through Mystery Science experiments as part of the Science curriculum. In social studies, elementary students focused on standards relating to the world around them with a focus on geography, history, economics and politics. In math students continued to learn and be challenged at their customized level utilizing the current EnVision Math curriculums and IXL as an additional resource. Students in 4th and 5th grade also practiced their STEM skills in units on robotics that saw students using their math and coding skills. In Character Education class and in our weekly assembly, students learned about the 9 Qualities for Life (purpose, curiosity, discernment, connection, compassion, courage, humility, service and persistence) and they were encouraged to live out these character traits every day.



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Secondary

In secondary, we focused on what it means to be "together." Students and teachers focused on the unity of our secondary program through our academic classes, clubs, sports and other extracurricular activities. This school year also brought the return of many events with other schools through CISA tournaments here in Chengdu and LifePlus events across China—like the MUN Conference in Qingdao, the Fine Arts Festival in Tianjin, the Senior Departure Seminar in Beijing, the soccer tournament in Wuhan and the basketball tournament in Tianjin. Our advisory program grew by allowing students more time

"Learn, love, lead. These three words represent the spirit of our school. I can see that in all of our teachers and staff here."

Current teacher

with their advisory teachers to build relationships, grow in their social-emotional learning and develop life-skills. Advisory teachers and students also worked together to prepare for our new Student-Led Conferences where students guide their own meeting with parents, sharing their strengths and growth points. This year we also grew our college and career counseling program by adding a Korean University Counselor to help our students who are specifically applying for Korean universities.



Student Services

The 2022-23 school year has been a year of building and development for the Student Services team. Each of the six departments that make up the Student Services Department (English Language Services, Learning Support Services, Wellbeing Counseling, Library Services, Nursing and College and Career Counseling) has worked to fully realize our team vision to see students, staff and our community "grow and thrive." Our team has continued our work to build deeper collaboration with classroom teachers. Collaborations alongside our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) models bring high-quality supports for teachers and students into the classroom. Together we implemented and established a Response-to-Intervention (RTI) program that utilizes data-based decision-making to equitably apply our resources in all grades. In all programs we seek to put student needs first and to find proactive solutions to support student needs.





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A year of connection, courage and compassion

We love





Chengdu puts high emphasis on the value of character and what it means to live a life of integrity.

This year, we continued to emphasize our 9 Qualities for Life each month, discussing the meaning of these traits in assemblies, character education classes and advisory times. We weave these traits and what it looks like to live them out in all we do here. We continued our Pandas of the Month award program, recognizing a student, staff member and teacher at each level monthly. Students in middle and high school were nominated and chosen by their peers while teachers and staff were also nominated and chosen by their peers. Teachers in ECC and elementary nominated students they saw demonstrating the quality well each month. Dr. Birdsong recognized and awarded students with a certificate, a photo and a special trip to the café. Evidence of the 9 Qualities for Life being emphasized all around the school could be seen throughout the year with several service projects. In December, the school showed compassion with a coat and blanket drive. Coats were donated to a village school. In March, elementary students participated in "Read to Fish" and raised funds to purchase a cow for a local village. Throughout the year, advisory groups could be seen volunteering for special projects and finding ways to show service. During our secondary spring trips, each group took a day to complete a special service project in and around the villages where they were traveling. By embodying service, students also can apply other qualities like compassion, purpose and humility.

"It's not meaningful to compare a child with another... We see the intrinsic values of our students and help them become the best versions of themselves—not someone else's idea of success."

Current teacher



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A year of humility, persistence and service

We lead



With the start of the second semester, we were excited to welcome parents back to our campus in full! They were able to build strong connections and be involved in a variety of school activities. This year many of our parent volunteers participated during our literacy week. Some of them read books to ECC and elementary students, some held deep conversations with secondary students and shared their love of reading. Their involvement provided a precious learning experience that's different from traditional classes for our students. Parents also showed their appreciation and support to school staff by giving staff Christmas gifts and sharing treats with children on Children's Day. We truly appreciate

the relationship between school and our families.

"One of my favorite memories this year is International Day. As we all waved our [home country] flags and walked together in the parade, I felt overcome with deep joy at what an amazing and diverse school I get to be a part of."

Current teacher + parent

We believe that education is a joint effort between the school and parents. We love to see the proud smiles on our parents' faces when they participate in our ECC/Elementary Parent Showcase Days, Christmas and Spring concerts, theatre productions and art displays. We also hosted parent workshops every quarter to provide support to our parents featuring such topics as "Learning at Chengdu," "Parenting with Love and Logic," "Supporting Your Child through Transition," and "Preparing for University." Together we are able to create a consistent, safe and loving learning environment for our students, at home and school.

Parents were able to build relationships with one another as well. Throughout the year, parents socialized with each other through various events hosted by PSG (Parent Support Group) such as family brunch and "Paint and Sip". Our parent social clubs were also blooming. English and Chinese corner were hosted on a weekly basis on campus to help parents bridge language barriers and make friends while learning a new language. Off campus, parents with similar interests met regularly through events like Foodie Club and Fitness Club. These clubs provided opportunities for parents to connect and have fun with each other. Our parents were key in our celebration of Chengdu's 25th anniversary. They generously invested their time and effort to make this a successful day.









"I believe that diversity is a strength of our school. Everyone brings their own culture and unique experiences that shape us. It's a privilege to guide students from around the world as they learn, grow and form a community." Dr. Will Hatten, Head of School starting 2023–24



Through building engagement with the city's expat community, our parents showed what a loving and supporting parent community we have. In addition to the cooperation of our parents, we also continued great relationships with outside community groups, such as Euro Chamber. Special guests were invited to attend our 25 year celebration from various chambers and organizations across the city.

Relationships with government entities within the city of Chengdu and the Jinjiang District remained strong in this school year. Government leaders in many departments helped to support the school through safety checks and invitations to special events in the city. In addition, partnerships with Jaozi Primary School and No. 7 Middle School continued to grow stronger through the year as part of our cultural exchange.





Our annual report 2022–23 20–21

A year of arts, athletics and activities

Extra-curricular

Clubs

Our elementary after-school clubs this year highlighted our students' desire to go deeper into STEAM learning and to experience more sports. We were able to add baseball and Ultimate Frisbee to our sports offerings as well as pottery and sewing to our creative clubs. Students enjoyed building robots and coding during robotics club. They learned about how to start new businesses and fund new initiatives while balancing profits and expenditures during our Young Entrepreneurs Club. Our Early Childhood Center students also loved staying after school for clubs two days a week. This gave them extra time to play with their friends, enjoy a snack, read a story and dance. Middle school students also joined extracurricular clubs such as Vex Robotics, math and set-design club. At the high school level, students participated in numerous clubs and groups such as the National English Honor Society to AHAVA and Cup of Water service clubs and set-design club where they helped build the set for the spring theater production. Many students at the high school level also joined in Model United Nations and were able to participate in two MUN conferences—one virtually in December and one in-person in the spring in Qingdao. Our theater program continued to grow, doubling the cast from last year and





"When I was at Chengdu International School I had opportunities [to do new things as part of its] "you can do anything if you try" culture. Because the culture at Chengdu was similar to univeristy, it was easy for me to make friends."

producing an amazing show of Alice in Wonderland. High school students not only participated as actors but also with lighting. sound and backstage support. The High School Student Council, comprised of both elected officers and grade-level representatives, was active all year with some well-loved events such as International Day, Talent Show and the Spring Dance. This year, we also saw some new events such as the high school lock-in where students spent the night on campus playing fun games and enjoying team-building activities. The Middle School Student Council also planned and implemented several studentcentered events for middle schoolers on campus throughout the year.









Athletics

Wow! After COVID restrictions were lifted, the athletics program boomed this year as we returned to regular play and travel. Over the past few years, our students came together through intramural sports, staff vs. student games and practicing skills and fundamentals. The engagement and development from this time of in-house athletics proved essential for our success in the 2022-23 school year as we played both in our CISA (Chengdu International Schools Association) and LifePlus leagues. Season One was hindered by online learning and travel restrictions, but high school volleyball and middle school soccer participated in a couple weeks of CISA season games and final tournaments. The high school volleyball boys placed 2nd in the CISA final; the girls placed 3rd. Unfortunately, there was no travel at this time, but the two teams played well for a shortened season. The middle school boys and girls played a few games in CISA, but fell short of placing in the CISA final. Team camaraderie was a core value for these two teams, and their love for the game and sportsmanship shined in each competition. Middle school cross country also saw several runners place in the CISA meet. The high school basketball teams and middle school volleyball teams of Season Two played through a compartmentalized season. During this time, a COVID breakout affected several schools in CISA, causing different measures that prevented the regular season schedule. Unfortunately, there were no CISA finals for the teams. On the bright side, the HS basketball teams traveled to Tianjin International School to participate in the first LifePlus tournament since 2020! The boys





and girls played their best, met old friends and made new ones, and created life-long memories. This successful tournament experience completely opened the door to Season Three travel and competitions. Trophies galore! The middle school basketball and high school soccer teams participated in a full season of CISA and LifePlus league play. The middle school basketball teams traveled to International School of Wuxi, where both teams placed 2nd in the tournament. They also participated in the CISA final, with girls bringing home 1st place and the boys snagging 2nd place. The high school soccer teams flew to Wuhan Yangtze International School for LifePlus play, but a heavy rainstorm in the area sadly halted their tournament. However, the boys placed 1st in the CISA final, and the girls placed 2nd! Furthermore, middle school boys placed 1st in the CISA boys doubles badminton tournament in some tightly competitive matches. Among these secondary sports seasons, the elementary students participated in the CISA soccer tournament, where mixed (boys and girls) teams showed off their skills and teamwork. At the cross-country meet, several students proudly represented Chengdu by medaling in their divisions. They also had the opportunity to compete in the CISA mixed doubles badminton tournament in the spring. All of these exciting competitions, formative practices and celebrations can only be accomplished with the dedicated coaches who give their time, knowledge and hearts to the development of these athletes. A special thanks go to these fantastic coaches. Go Pandas!



Fine arts

All students have access to a wide variety of Fine Art opportunities at Chengdu International School. In the 2022–23 school year, ECC and elementary students attended "specials" class every day and got to participate in classes such as art, music, computers, library and PE. Due to the Covid-10 restrictions being lifted in Chengdu. for the first time since 2019, both the Christmas and Spring concerts were open to the public and parents were able to attend the elementary and secondary concerts. Fifth graders explored singing in their once-a-week choir class and loved learning a song featured in a Harry Potter film because they had been separated into Hogwarts Houses for the year. In the fall, our middle school drama class had an introduction to theater and worked together to create all aspects of a play, including lights, sound, set and prop design, and acting. As a culmination of the class, they performed their play, *Help Desk*, first for elementary assembly, then for the entire middle school, and finally for an audience of teachers and parents. Help Desk is a







hilarious comedy showing interactions between extremely unhelpful call center employees and customers calling in with outrageous problems. None of the middle school students in the class had acted on stage before but the play was a huge success. In High School, students were able to choose classes more closely related to their personal interests and pursued Computer Programming, Graphic Design, Personal Fitness, Choir and Band at a higher level. Again, the Christmas and Spring concerts were open to the public. Various 2D and 3D art projects were designed, created and displayed electronically



"Being here for more than ten years has given me plenty of good memories. It's hard for me to choose a favorite... I'm happy Chengdu has provided me with so many opportunities."

Current student

and around the school. During the second semester, the high school students were able to participate in the Annual LifePlus Fine Arts Festival. The music students learned a lot from the guest conductors and the art students learned new painting techniques and visited the local art museum. After the winter break, the Chengdu Theater Department held auditions for their big spring production, Alice in Wonderland. The cast of 18 students was made up of 8th-12th graders with varying levels of experience. Creating the world of Wonderland was a huge undertaking and numerous people volunteered their time to make it happen. To get students involved, we kicked off a Theater Set Design club after school. The final effort for Alice in Wonderland involved over a dozen teachers and over 30 students working on everything from artwork to giant mushrooms, to lighting, sound and music design. The end result was an incredible show. It was promoted in the local community and in various expat groups in the city. Including staff, the total audience consisted of over 500 people—many of whom came from outside our school. In addition to the first semester middle school drama class, we had a year-long Pre-AP Theater class for high school. These students did a series of small performances along the way while also doing in-depth analysis of various theater works and concepts. By the time Alice in Wonderland came along, these students had an in-depth understanding of what goes into the different parts of a theater production. For their contribution, they created an interactive lobby display for the Alice in Wonderland audience that covered the entire hallway and stairs leading up to the stage.

How we measure up

Standardized test results

Scholastic Aptitude Test® (SAT®)

SAT scores 2023	Math	Reading	Total
Our average	709	676	1310
Global average	596	586	1182

Average SAT score: 1400

Advanced Placement® (AP®)

AP scores	2023	2022*	2021*	
Total AP students	28	31	45	
Number of exams	79	79	99	
% of scores 4 or 5	51	47	51	

^{*} AP Scores 3 year summary: Over 50% of the AP exams taken by students scored a 4 or 5.

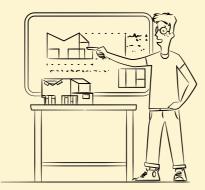
Measures of academic progress® (MAP®)

Chengdu International school students performs well above average on the MAP growth assessment compared to United States norms (50th percentile is average) in both math and language useage.

Chengdu International School students score

Top 10% in math

Top 30% in language usage



Next steps on the learning journey

University acceptances

Our students have gone on to study a wide variety of subjects, such as *cybersecurity*, *education*, *animation* and *finance*, at many universities around the world including...

Boston University
Cairn University
ChongAng University
Grand Canyon University
Hanyang University
Ohio State University
Purdue University
Sungkyunkwan University
Seoul Women's University
University of California, Davis
University of Colorado Boulder
Yonsei University

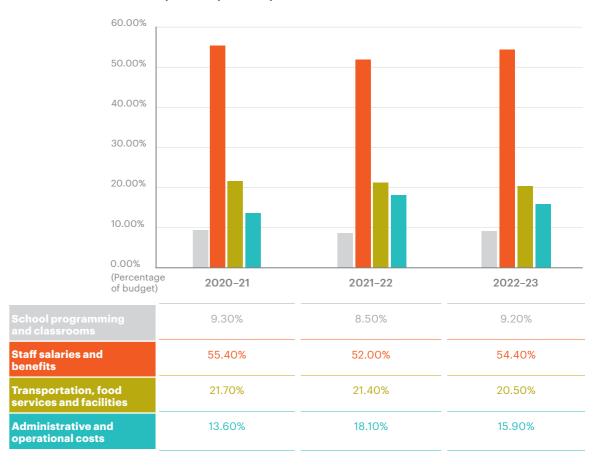




Investing in the common good

Financial summary

School finance costs three year analysis of expenditures





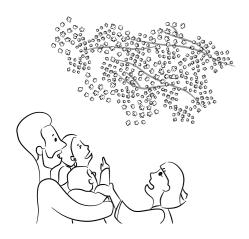
"I aim to meet students' needs holistically. Learning involves cognitive, social and emotional processes. I also strive to make what they learn relevant to their daily lives or concerns."

Current teacher

Our annual report 2022–23

How we intend to grow

Our goals for 2023-24



Chengdu International School is committed to a process of continuous improvement in which we constantly examine how we can adjust and support student growth. Our improvement model is implemented through a strategic plan that encompasses all areas of the school. We have identified six focus areas that are tied directly to our school values where we have invested a lot of time and energy and plan to continue to pursue growth. While these areas are strengths for the school we are also committed to continued growth.

The six focus areas are:

- 1. Utilize student data to monitor progress and make adjustments.
- **2.** Develop student centered plans for learning support and intervention.
- **3.** Build relationships with all stakeholders to build community and collaboration.
- Focus on holistic education through high standards in academics, athletics, character development, social and emotional learning.
- 5. Implement technology and design thinking through STEAM education programs and processes.
- **6.** Develop teachers through professional growth opportunities and training.

Survey results

What our community says

2023 Parents survey results

Our parents reported the strongest agreement with the statements:

- Our school's purpose statement is clearly focused on student success.
- Our school communicates effectively about the school's goals and activities.
- All of my child's teachers provide an equitable curriculum that meets his/her learning needs.
- All of my child's teachers work as a team to help my child learn.
- Our school provides a safe learning environment.

2023 Students survey results

Our students reported the strongest agreement with the statements:

- I am safe at school.
- I have the materials, supplies and technology I need to be successful in school.
- I actively participate in class discussions and activities.
- I participate in before or after-school activities such as sports, clubs, tutoring, etc.







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