

## **Roles in the Governance Process**

The Environmental and Adventure School operates as a staff-initiated “choice” school within the Lake Washington School District, using environment as an integrating context for learning, adventure as a means of challenging learners, and stewardship for connecting students in purposeful ways to their larger community.

### **LWSD Administration, Heather Sinclair**

As Director of School Support for the Juanita Learning Community, Heather Sinclair oversees the administration of EAS.

### **Principal, Victor Scarpelli**

Victor Scarpelli handles administrative duties, supports EAS staff in our alignment with district and state policies, and is in direct contact with Heather Sinclair and other district administrators. Victor can be contacted directly by parents for issues or questions that cannot be addressed by the school staff.

### **Lead Teacher, Eileen McMackin**

Eileen oversees many administrative duties at EAS, works with the principal to ensure that we are meeting district and state requirements, and oversees the Environmental Science Studies Community Stewardship Projects. Eileen is the EAS contact for information regarding school procedures and policies.

### **Teaching and Office Staff**

Eileen McMackin, John Hamilton, Brian Healy, Wayne Tannhauser, and Marcus Rose are all full time teachers at EAS. Kirsten Boone and Alexandra Leal are part time Spanish teachers. Cheryl Madson is our Office Manager and Colleen McLaughlin oversees office work related to EAS volunteer workers, excursions, stewardship projects, and community outreach. Marianne Spencer coordinates the Wednesday Elective program.

### **Staff Commitment**

We operate under our original philosophy and agreements established with Lake Washington School District. We maintain direct governance and communication systems to sustain positive relationships among students, staff, parents, and administrators.

### **Advisory Team Role**

The EAS Advisory Team’s primary role is to maintain the vision, mission, and goals of the school. The team includes the EAS teachers, parents, and members of the larger community who are not parents of students in our school or district. In keeping with the original focus of this team, individuals who replace existing members will be selected by EAS staff to fulfill specific criteria and qualifications. As approved by LWSD upon the founding of EAS, Advisory team members, including employed EAS staff members, have the option of having their children attend EAS. These children are enrolled in addition to the number of

available lottery placements in the year they enroll. They do not impact the number of available places in the lottery for incoming students. Advisory Team positions include:

- PTO Liaison(s)
- Financial / Business Support – Grant Consultants
- Environmental Science and Curriculum Support
- Adventure Education Program Consultants
- Excursion Meal Planning, Nutrition, and Kitchen Coordinator
- Wednesday Elective Coordinator
- Cultural Enrichment Consultant
- Community Stewardship Liaison(s)

### **Student Roles and Involvement**

We value the importance of team-building, camaraderie, and school spirit as part of student involvement and leadership. Development of these attributes is integral to activities that are designed to meet instructional goals. The EAS staff keeps the focus of the school on curriculum requirements and is accountable for the academic integrity of the program. Students take on leadership roles and make choices about ways to meet learning goals and carry out projects. They are encouraged to initiate and facilitate activities and to share input regarding their needs and issues. EAS staff will respond to student input and assist in setting up processes for students to accomplish their goals.

### **Parent Involvement at EAS**

The EAS project-based curriculum, stewardship activities, and adventure-learning expeditions extend beyond a typical school operating budget and need for volunteer commitment. These needs are largely filled through parent financial contributions and volunteer time. Individual parent participation and the activities of our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) are essential to the operation of our school.

### **EAS Student and Parent Agreements**

- EAS has a rigorous academic program and all students are expected to maintain a minimum of a 3.0 (B) standard grade for all classes.
- Special Services classes are limited to writing or math and are only available to EAS students for 1 morning session daily through Finn Hill Jr. High Special Education Department. Students requiring more individualized education time cannot be serviced at EAS. District policy states: *“The student’s IEP team will determine the services and placement. There may be instances where a student’s IEP team determines that the level of services and/or the placement in a specific district program are not offered at the Choice School; therefore, the student’s placement will remain at the district’s program placement or the student may receive special education services at an alternative school in our district.”*
- Participation on EAS trips, electives, and service projects requires a 3.0 grade average, consistent attendance, and appropriate behavior.

- Instruction in classes is accelerated and intensified in six 5-week blocks through the school year in order to provide time for 3 excursion weeks and 3 community stewardship sessions.
- Homework time ranges from 1.5 – 2 hours per night.
- Students write, read, present, and use technology extensively in all classes.
- Multi-grade classes of 36 students include 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades for science, social studies, language arts, art, and fitness.
- Students MUST be highly organized and possess strong study skills for successful performance at EAS.
- Students are expected to work well independently and in group tasks.
- By contract, parents commit to 25 hours per year of volunteer service, most of which needs to be met during the school day.
- To support EAS programs and projects that exceed the standard educational budget, EAS families contribute \$200 per child per year. (EAS holds no additional fundraisers, other than the fall BINGO, which funds PTO programs and school support.)
- EAS students agree to meet academic requirements by achieving the standard of 3.0 or above in all classes each year and parents agree to work with staff on strategies for home and school to support their children in meeting this expectation.
- Continued enrollment at EAS depends upon meeting these academic, financial, and volunteer time contract agreements.
- In order to be successful, students need to be aware of the programs and expectations and must have a personal desire to attend EAS.