

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, Cindy Duenas

Cindy Duenas 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. Cindy’s background and experience in “choice”/alternative schools is a great benefit to us. She can be contacted directly by parents for issues or questions that cannot be addressed by the school staff.

Lead Teacher, Eileen McMackin

Eileen oversees some administrative duties at EAS and works with Cindy Duenas to ensure that we are meeting district and state requirements. 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 to fulfill specific criteria and qualifications.

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.

Role of Parent-Teacher-Organization

The PTO is an organization of parents and teachers. Our PTO provides networking for parents and support for extra-curricular student activities. The EAS PTO assists us in working toward the goals of the school through fundraising and grant-writing for programs that require expenditures beyond the normal school budget. Our project-based curriculum, stewardship activities, and adventure-learning expeditions extend beyond a normal school operating budget. This is our greatest need and one that we cannot meet without the support of the families in our school.

The PTO also assumes the role of coordinating volunteers for specific committees and tasks, and logging the 25 hours of family volunteer commitment. Parent participation in the many activities that make up our school program is essential! Some of the areas of parent involvement at EAS are:

- Facilitating, assisting, driving and chaperoning for Wednesday Elective Activities.
- Facilitating, assisting, and/or driving students for Community Stewardship Projects.
- Driving and supervising students on field study excursions.
- Facilitating student group activities, chaperoning, and assisting with specific tasks on adventure-learning expeditions.
- Assisting with clerical tasks in the office or at home.
- Coordinating the student Yearbook group