



"We are not passengers, we are crew."



SUMMIT SCHOOL BELIEFS

Summit School was created on the belief that students learn best when they hold ownership in their education and when that education is genuinely applicable to their lives. Learning expeditions are the primary way of organizing curriculum for our students in grades K-8. The subject matter of a learning expedition is a compelling topic derived from state content standards.



Learning expeditions feature linked projects that require students to construct deep understandings and skills, create projects for real audiences, support literacy, promote character development, create a sense of

adventure, work in a collaborative environment, and spark curiosity. Teachers work together daily in a highly collaborative atmosphere to ensure learning expeditions are aligned with the State Essential Academic Learning Requirements and Grade Level Expectations.

We appreciate the vital role parents play in a learning community and ask that before enrolling their student, they carefully consider the curriculum and instructional philosophy as outlined by Summit School and Central Valley School District. By sharing a common philosophy at Summit School we ensure an effective partnership between staff, students, and parents. It is important that parents understand the authentic learning experiences created at Summit School require students to attend school on a regular basis for learning to be effective.



"Imagination is more important than knowledge. I never came upon my discoveries through the process of rational thinking."

- Albert Einstein

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SUMMIT SCHOOL CREW

Legendary educator Kurt Hahn said,
"We are not passengers, we are crew."

Speaking of everyone . . .

Family members, teachers, students, community members, non-teaching staff and administration



On a ship, passengers are catered to. Their main purpose is to arrive at the destination with as little effort as possible. They are involved in activities, but not wholly engaged in the journey.

Crew, on the other hand, are responsible for the entire journey (under the guidance of the captain). They are engrossed in the activities of the ship. In fact, without their individual and collaborative effort, the passage cannot happen. Crew, too, reach the same destination as the passengers, but their experience is significantly richer.

MULTI-AGE CLASSROOMS

Summit School is organized into four Houses (Explorers, Navigators, Trail Blazers, and Voyagers). Classrooms are designed to provide an optimum learning environment for students. Therefore, they are all multi-age and are designed as follows:



Kindergarten = Explorers
Grades 1-2 = Explorers
Grades 3-4 = Navigators
Grades 5-6 = Trail Blazers
Grades 7-8 = Voyagers



INDIVIDUAL GOAL SETTING

Goals will be developed by the student, teacher, and parent based on the student's needs. This is a student-driven process which requires each student to focus on those areas of learning where they tend to excel and those where they need additional practice. Goals are developed for improvement as well as maintenance of strengths. In addition, rather than using traditional report cards, Summit School relies on student portfolios as the primary means of communicating student progress. In this way, teachers, parents, and students can easily see the evidence of progress toward their goals. These portfolios are used in conjunction with other documentation to communicate where the students are in relation to the particular educational standard.



BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

It is critical that parents, teachers, and students play an active role in supporting and monitoring behavioral expectations for the school environment. Students need to see school as a safe and risk free place for learning to be successful. At Summit School, we believe that respect is top priority for anyone who desires to be a viable member of society. Therefore, we require that students maintain an acceptable behavioral standard, respectfully participate, and complete work on time. This affords us the opportunity to provide an optimal learning environment.

A COMMUNITY WORKING TOGETHER!

STUDENTS

- Take responsibility for learning and behavior by being respectful, safe and completing work on time.
- Set goals and evaluate.
- Bring curiosity.
- Participate in community service and outreach.
- Participate in character education.
- Provide imagination/creativity.
- Be respectful.

PARENTS

- Encourage student's efforts.
- Support student's goals.
- Reinforce character education.
- Support student's development as a learner.
- Reinforce with student the Summit School Behavioral and Dress Standards.
- Enhance learning experience.
- Model lifelong learning.

TEACHERS

- Personalize educational opportunities.
- Promote and model lifelong learning.
- Provide leadership and support for student academic plans.
- Maintain communication.
- Collaborate with other teachers to make connections across curriculum.
- Collaborate with families to achieve highest level of learning for all students.

SUMMIT SCHOOL CURRICULUM

The Washington State Essential Learning Requirements and Grade Level Expectations guide our instruction. A variety of experiences supporting the content areas of Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and the Arts are provided through Learning Expeditions. (As stated earlier, Learning Expeditions are the primary way for organizing curriculum.) It is important for parents and students to understand that Summit School does not adhere strictly to a particular textbook as our only resource. Rather, teachers at Summit School use a variety of resources and organize curriculum around theme-based learning expeditions based on state goals.



A DAY AT SUMMIT SCHOOL



Core content areas are extremely important to the educational foundation of any student's education. Students at Summit School participate in Learning Expeditions that support these content areas. Each day begins with Base Camp. Here, students participate in daily crew meetings creating a community with their classmates. In base camp students prepare for their day and plan for upcoming events. Following Base Camp all students attend Math. Following Math, students are in Learning Expeditions until lunch. Next, they are in Community Time where students participate in a variety of multiage activities such as: drumming, guitar, p.e., art, technology, Spanish, etc.

Following Community Time students return to their Learning Expeditions. As students wind down their day, they return to Base Camp to sum up their day, attend to any necessary business, and organize their assignments and planners. This schedule may vary by House.

HOW TO ENROLL MY CHILD AT SUMMIT SCHOOL

1. Please read the **Summit School Belief Statement/ Agreement** carefully. While Summit School is an enriching, collaborative, and active learning environment with curriculum organized around themes, this structure may or may not be the best fit for you and/or your child. We suggest you carefully consider your child's strengths and areas needing development, as well as their learning style before enrolling them.

2. **Schedule a tour through the office** and fill out an application form after the tour. This will give you a date and time on our waiting list. Applications are accepted only after a tour has been completed to ensure that parents have an opportunity to fully understand the Summit School philosophy.

3. When there is an opening you will be contacted by the Summit School office to schedule a family interview. If you have a student entering grades 5-8, he/she will need to

complete the student questionnaire, and you will need to complete the parent questionnaire, regardless of your child's grade level. While Summit School is open to all students, it is important to be sure the student and the educational setting are a good fit. The interview simply allows you to learn more about the educational philosophies of the school, as well as provides additional information about your child. This is a unique opportunity for a Summit School representative to answer any questions which may arise during the application process.

4. Sign the **Summit School Belief Statement/ Agreement**. This is a statement which outlines the goals, philosophy, and structure of Summit School and documents the agreement of all parties involved. By sharing a common vision, the Summit School community becomes a place where learning is a valued and shared experience.



**Journey with us
to the Summit!**

SUMMIT SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Summit School is founded on the belief that the education of children is the shared responsibility of families, schools and communities. We strive to provide a high quality, student-centered education program where students will participate in challenging and innovative project-oriented learning that emphasizes the integration of the arts, science and technology. Our learning environment will provide for multi-age grouping in a collaborative community that celebrates children's natural curiosity in their quest for knowledge, wellness and service opportunities on their journey to the summit.

“The lesson you teach today is not confined to the walls of your classroom. Once it is implanted in the heart and mind of a child, it can change the world.”

- Unknown

The Portrait of a Summit Student



Skilled Knowledgeable Learner

Effective Communicator

Self-directed Learner

Collaborative Learner

Quality Worker/Producer

Complex Thinker

Community Contributor