

Exhibit D: Description of Educational Program: In-School Time

School Name: Crosslake Community School

Mission: "To grow environmentally literate, community impacting learners of excellence."

Vision: "CCS: Where academics lead to a stronger, healthier community"

Program Description:

Crosslake Community School (CCS) is a public charter school that offers a seat-based program to PreK-8 students in the Crosslake area, and an online program for K-12 students across the state of Minnesota. CCS is committed to smaller class sizes and multi-age classrooms as a means to enrich learning experiences for students. This combination allows for teachers to more deeply engage their students in the educational process. It also allows classroom teachers to develop a greater understanding of individual students by maintaining contact over a longer period of time.

CCS's online program opened its virtual doors in August 2014. The online program provides both comprehensive (full-time/diploma granting) as well as supplemental (part-time) programming as a public online high school in Minnesota. Online students can work from home or anywhere they have internet access. This program also features a licensed school counselor, social worker, lead special education teacher, trained paraprofessional support, learning coaches, and Minnesota-licensed online teachers employed by the school. This model allows for a significant amount of individual support for students and their families in ways that other online programs may not be able to provide.

The school is co-led by two administrators: Director of Seat-Based Learning and Director of Online Learning. The two leaders share the Executive Director district leadership role, and each is responsible for leading their respective program. Both leaders report directly to the Board of Education.

Environmental Awareness

CCS has a dedicated EE Coordinator for each program who helps to embed environmental education components throughout the school. In the past, the school has instituted programs like "Project Feeder Watch," where students in all classrooms made observations on local bird species and their behaviors during the course of the school year, collecting data on said behaviors. Another example is a partnership with the Whitefish Area Property Owners Association. Through this partnership, students are able to conduct water samples of area lakes, looking for invasive species, etc.

Online students participate in Environmental Education projects in their own communities and learn about EE concepts via their online courses. MESS-E (Math, English, Science, Social Studies - Electives) projects integrate EE concepts across disciplines. Students regularly engage with EE concepts within their Grade-Level Seminar course (high school), middle school homeroom, and daily elementary lessons.

Community Consciousness

CCS offers a variety of events throughout the year that connect the school's students to the surrounding community. We develop these connections by: 1) Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, which is an opportunity to honor Dr. King by having our students engage in a variety of service projects including visits to a local senior center, helping stock food shelves, etc. 2) Growing and selling pumpkins with the help of a local farmer; and 3) participating in a community clean-up each spring. Online students participate in a variety of activities in their local communities.

Learners of Excellence

CCS transforms its students into learners of excellence through the following practices:

- Data Analysis
 - Staff meet regularly to aid with the placement of students into multiple levels of support (SPED, Title I, Rtl, online learning coaches, student support services, etc.).
 - Data is used to drive instructional practices and create personalized learning plans.
 - Assessment data is regularly reviewed as part of MTSS team meetings and is used to develop intervention plans for tiered supports.

- Professional Development
 - On-going job-embedded professional development incorporates the work of Robert Marzano, Envoy, Quality Matters, a strong Qcomp model, and content-specific training for all staff.
 - Mission-focused environmental education training is provided by outside entities.

- Classroom Mentoring and Relationship-Building
 - Within the multi-grade classrooms, students are able to engage in mentoring opportunities with peers. Small class sizes further enhance these relationships.
 - The mentorship model extends beyond individual classrooms due to strong, positive relationships between students, staff, and families.
 - The online program develops connections between students and staff via 1-1 and small group meetings, grade-level meetings, and homeroom offerings.
 - The learning coach model provides online students with a dedicated support person and advocate who helps them communicate with teachers, interact with the online learning platforms, facilitates parent/guardian communication, and more.