

RIT Band Flexible,
Multi-age Group Instruction in
Reading and Math

Inquiry-based Instruction

Project-based Instruction

Grade level specific instruction for
standards-based learning

Lifelong Learners and Leaders



Buena Vista
**Learning
Community**
The “Family”
concept

2012-2013



A Learning Community

What is a Learning Community?

At Buena Vista Elementary, a learning community is

- A multi-age setting of classrooms for grades 1-5 arranged in one cluster
- A classroom environment reminiscent of a family and living in a neighborhood.
- An environment just as a traditional classroom, made up of children of different backgrounds, ability levels, and needs but also different ages.
- An environment, just like a traditional classroom where all children are participating actively as they are learning.
- An environment in which the learners are learning how to become responsible for their own learning in different ways every day.
- An environment in which children are allowed to make more choices in their instruction.
- An environment which gives children more opportunities to share responsibilities and become leaders.
- An environment in which the teachers facilitate instruction more than direct instruction. They give the children more opportunities to help decide what will be learned than is possible in the traditional setting.
- An environment which helps and encourages all children to become leaders and develop their self-esteem.
- An environment in which social skills of all kinds are introduced and reinforced in different ways from the traditional classroom.

How in the world can this be accomplished within a classroom?

- Flexible grouping, in which the children can be moved back and forth into small "clubs" (groups), according to their individual needs, abilities, and interests.
- Often children are from different countries, adding a great deal to our learning of the international world.
- Through peer tutoring where the children help each other.
- Teachers work with small academic "clubs" (math and literacy), so children's demonstrated needs can be met.
- Adult tutoring, usually from parents and other community representatives
- Inquiry-based learning, where the learners are involved in daily problem solving and making their own choices as to their learning. The Project Approach philosophy is used in which an in-depth project is studied. The children learn in whole group, small group, and individually.
- Celebrations: We are continually celebrating formally and informally our students' achievements and learning on a daily basis!

OPT OUT

BV Learning Community

I do NOT wish for my child to be placed in a learning community for school year 2012-2013

Parent Signature

Date

Child's name and Current 11-12 Grade: