

OKLAHOMA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Edgemere Elementary



A Community School

3200 N Walker Ave.

Oklahoma City, OK 73118

What is a Community School?

A community school is not built with bricks and mortar but is created through the collaboration of partners throughout the community. The purpose is to increase student learning, strengthen families and build healthier communities. Schools become the center of the community and provide programs that are accessible to everyone.

Edgemere Community School would continue to be a PK-6 public elementary school with the same attendance boundaries. However, through the community schools framework, it will be a hub of the community as well.

This school has a long history of community that will continue to serve it well. Many of the programs currently existing at Edgemere are community driven.

PROPOSED CORE COMPONENTS OF COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



What are the major advantages for community schools?

- Provide learning opportunities that develop academic and non-academic competencies.
 - Continue partnering with the Paseo Artists and increase that partnership by training staff through OK A+ and increasing the integration of arts into the curriculum.
 - Provide a consistent, safe, quality afterschool program with options such as the arts, STEM, sports, tutoring and homework assistance through partnerships with YMCA, OSU-OKC, Arts Council of OKC, OK Children’s Theatre, etc.
 - Partner with the Payne Education Center to provide teachers with additional professional development in reading instruction, a reading therapist, and a literacy program for adults in the community.
 - Offer birth to preschool education for our community to assist with school readiness. Classes for parents of children birth to school are currently offered through Smart Start. We hope to add more offerings through a Parent University framework.
 - Offer classes to parents on best practices for supporting students and creating lifetime learners.

- Benefit from additional resources to reduce the demand on school staff for addressing all the challenges that students bring to school. The Edgemere Community will:
 - Partner with the OK Dept. of Mental Health and Substance Abuse to provide social workers and counselors on site for students and families.
 - Partner with OSU-OKC to provide numerous resources. OSU-OKC students will serve as tutors as a community service.
 - Pursue a relationship with Variety Care to provide embedded medical assistance to our teachers, students, and families.

- Build Social Capital.
 - Create opportunities for our students to give back to their community, become involved in leadership opportunities and grow into civic-minded adults.
 - Provide peer mediation programs, drug and alcohol education, GED classes and other needed programs for the community.
 - Establish classes in etiquette giving students the foundation of good manners that provides confidence.
 - Establish opportunities for parents and students to learn and have fun together.

What does a community school hope to accomplish?

- Expanded student learning
- Increased student attendance
- Improved student behavior and youth development
- Increased participation with parents and families
- More opportunities for students and families to contribute to and benefit from their community.
- Broader partnerships with the community will provide increased vision, support for bond issues, and advocates for education.

What is the cost of a Community School?

Community Schools are designed to respond to the needs of the students, their families and community. Thus, the amount of money needed will vary depending upon those needs. **We are requesting \$50,000.00 in flexible program dollars in addition to current funding at Edgemere for five years from the OKCPS district.**

A Community School Coordinator is the most important expense. **We request the OKCPS district provide funding for a full-time community school coordinator for five years.** This individual is responsible for mobilizing community resources and integrating them into the life of the school. They can be employed by a school district, community organization or a public agency. Salaries should be at a

professional level and competitive with those of people in similar roles, such as teachers and social workers.

Community School programs can be financed through a variety of both public and private funding streams. This is less than \$1 per student per day. This will provide before and afterschool care and a host of other programs. The community pledges to match the district's commitment in a combination of program services and financial support.

Additional expenses to be negotiated include innovation compensation for teachers outside of the current salary schedule and the utilization of current Title I funds to support the Payne Reading Program and a reading therapist.

We request that teachers report ½ hour earlier and remain ½ hour later than their current contract. This time would be used for teacher collaboration, faculty meetings, and parent communication. We ask that the teachers participate in OKA+ training July 7-11 and Payne Education Center training July 21-25.

A full-time medical professional and clinic will be provided through a community partnership with Variety Care.

Are there programs or professional development available for principals, teachers and community school coordinators?

The National Community Schools Coalition will hold a forum in Cincinnati, OH on April 8-9, 2014. Friends of Edgemere School will be willing to pay for two to attend the forum and breakout sessions. Also, Jan Creveling with the Tulsa Area Community Schools Initiative has agreed to mentor Edgemere as our advisory partner.

Do Community Schools require more staff?

Hiring a community school coordinator is imperative. Beyond that, the decision should be based on providing the best learning opportunities for the students. The staffing formula remains consistent with the practices of Oklahoma City Public Schools.

How critical are the community partners?

Partnerships to the Community School are critical to their success. Edgemere School has developed many supportive partnerships over the past six years through a joint belief that all students deserve a first class public education. We will continue to nurture these partnerships as we also look to grow new partners in the community.

Our Community School Partners

Organization Name	Contact Name	Confirmed
Friends of Edgemere School (funding assistance, volunteers, neighborhood outreach)	Kelly Pearson	Resource Partner
The Payne Education Center Full PK-6 Staff training (July 2014) including an Adult Literacy Program	Carrie Brown	Resource Partner
OK A+ Schools (professional development in July 2014)	Jean Hendrickson	Resource Partner
Paseo Artists Association.	Jennifer Barron	Resource Partner
Oklahoma Children’s Theatre	Rozz Grigsby	Resource Partner
Oklahoma Mental Health Dept.	Terri White	Resource Partner
Arts Council of Oklahoma City	Sharon Astrin	Resource Partner
Neighborhood Alliance of Central OK	Georgie Rasco	Advisory Partner
OSU-OKC	Bill Pink	Resource Partner
Variety Care	Andrew Rice	Resource Partner
Whiz Kids	Bea Jai Webb	Resource Partner
Wesley United Methodist Church Whiz Kids	Ron Otte	Resource Partner
United Methodist Church of the Servant – Whiz Kids	Shirley Rolston	Resource Partner
First Christian Church of OKC	Rev. John Malget	Resource Partner

Tulsa Area Community Schools Initiative (TACSI)	Jan Creveling	Advisory Partner
Harding Fine Arts Academy	Sherry Rowan	Resource Partner
Oklahoma County Health Dept. Catch Kids Club Health at School	Aimee Merick	Resource Partner
Shine Program – OK County	Brian Maughan	Resource Partner
OK Afterschool Network	Sheryl Lovelady	Advisory Partner
Closer to Earth	Allen Parleir	Resource Partner
Boy Scouts of America	Judge Stephen Friot, Matt Thompson, Nick Rice	Resource Partner
Oklahoma Family Network	Joni Bruce	Resource Partner
YMCA	Kelly Kay, Angela Jones	Resource Partner
OKC Harvest	Larry Heyman Lisa Putt	Resource Partner
Stand for Children	Matt Latham	Advisory Partner
Foundation for OKCPS	Robyn Hilger	Advisory Partner
Kam’s Kookery and Guilford Gardens	Kamela Gamble	Resource Partner
Smart Start of Central OK	Stacy Dykstra	Resource Partner

More to Come....



Edgemere students delivering created work to IAO Gallery – Arts Council of OKC

OUR VISION – GROWING THE FUTURE

A History of Community Involvement

Edgemere School, built in 1912, is located at 3200 N Walker Avenue in the historic neighborhood of Edgemere Park in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The school's MAPS for Kids program, completed in early 2009, refitted the school for a maximum student population of 225 students. Construction of a physical education room is anticipated.

Edgemere School is surrounded by five neighborhoods, Jefferson Park, Paseo, Central Park, Crown Heights/Edgemere Heights and Edgemere Park. Currently, few children from CH-EH or Edgemere Park attend the school.

The school is within walking distance to the Paseo Arts District, Harding Charter Schools, First Christian Church, and numerous city parks. The Uptown 23rd Street revitalization is occurring to our south. Our attendance boundaries are Western Avenue from 23rd Street to 41st Street and east to Santa Fe.

We believe we have great potential for success with the Community School model. Over the past six years, Friends of Edgemere School has raised over \$200,000.00 in funds providing a new playground, new furniture, window treatments, bulletin boards, irrigation and landscaping and more. During the 2010-11 school year, over 100 volunteers were actively participating in the school. Edgemere School does not have a corporate partner like many other OKCPS schools. Our financial support has come from the members of our community and our alumni.

Edgemere School has an active and involved alumni group. Many of the former students are now pillars of our community. The honorary co-chairs of the Friends of Edgemere School are the Honorable U.S. District Judge Ralph Thompson and Edward H. Cook.

Changing School Culture

Community Schools are a holistic approach to educating the child. The family and the community are wrapped into the school so completely that it becomes difficult to determine where one ends and the other begins. This seamless interaction is dependent upon a collaborative relationship between the principal and the community schools coordinator.

A school-site leadership team will be convened to support the work of the principal and community school coordinator. It will be comprised of educators, parents, community partners as well as representatives from each neighborhood and OKCPS district. Initially, the committee will assist in the selection of the community school principal and community school coordinator. They will also collaborate in creating and developing afterschool offerings, budgeting, fundraising, evaluation of programs and documentation of the pilot program. Data on academic and non-academic factors drive the work of a community school. Further, we hope to grow more community schools within the district so we plan to carefully document our path and our results.

The Edgemere Community School goals would include:

- Children are ready to learn when they enter school and every day thereafter.
- Students are engaged and motivated to learn through creative lessons provided by highly trained professionals.
- Young people are well prepared for their continued education, citizenship, and as productive members of the community.
- Families and neighborhoods are safe, supported and engaged.
- Parents and community members are involved with the school and their own life-long learning.
- The school is a resource for the community.

We propose to offer a before/afterschool program, on-site health services, adult and family literacy program, and social services for the students, their family and the community. We will provide a core

instructional program with enhanced reading instruction provided through the Payne Education Center. We will continue plans to participate in the OK A+ summer training institute to enable teachers another methodology in motivating and engaging all students.

As a pilot community school, Edgemere School would also like to serve as a model site for teacher education/preparation. We are actively pursuing programs with students majoring in education, social services, nutrition, etc. We hope to attract UTPA students, as well. We have begun developing our partnership with OSU-OKC as a university partner.

Early Care and Learning

A long-term goal is to develop an early care & learning program near Edgemere School. Until that time, we plan to work diligently in the community to bring needed materials and parent and family education to the Edgemere community.

Health and Health Education

We met with Andrew Rice of Variety Care regarding a clinic at Edgemere School. The Friends of Edgemere School has the resources to add a small clinic at Edgemere that would serve students, their families and staff. The district would incur no costs. The school nurse would continue to be responsible for immunization records and other current duties. Currently, the school nurse is in the school on Fridays.

Proper nutrition is an important part of the success of our students. Therefore, we will make this a priority at Edgemere. The Friends of Edgemere School is examining the cost of returning a cooking kitchen. The use of disposable trays is counter to our desire to teach children about the care of our planet. We would like to also purchase re-usable melamine trays and a dishwasher.

We have contacted a former student about creating a café atmosphere with 60” round tables and chairs that would enhance the ability to teach conversation and etiquette. Fine dining would occur periodically.

The Devon Science Giant garden has not materialized as of yet. Therefore, we would like to use those funds to create raised bed gardens with the assistance of OKC Harvest and parent and community volunteers. The garden will be used as an outdoor classroom with curriculum from OKC Harvest.

Parents and neighbors will be invited to culinary classes conducted by professionals led by Marc Dunham, a culinary arts teacher. We are hoping to use curriculum that includes shopping lists and recipes that teach families how to prepare nutritious meals inexpensively. We hope to be able to host family dinners at the school at least once a month.

Mental Health and Social Services

Addiction, sometimes resulting in incarceration, is a problem within our community that affects our students and their families. We acknowledge the need for substance abuse counseling within our community and will provide resources for it. Terri White with the Oklahoma Mental Health Department has agreed to partner with us toward this goal. They suggest implementing the Strengthening Families and Celebrating Families models. These are group family models. They have worked well at Santa Fe South.

We are also discussing a partnership with a provider (one of the State's contractors) to possibly have a case manager stationed at the school to screen, refer and link students to the services needed. Student support groups for those dealing with divorce, incarcerated parents, grief and other issues are also under consideration.

Family and Community Engagement

Family-style conferences, Parent University, Devon garden, soccer teams, Cub Scouts and Brownie Troops, PTA support, home visits, family meals, and many other activities and opportunities to provide outreach to our families will be initiated. We know it will require time and patience to bring families back to school but we are tenacious in our desire to do so. We will also work with our families and community to increase engagement through improved communication.

Youth Development and Out of School Time

A consistent, safe and healthy afterschool program that provides instruction in the arts, STEM, sports and other disciplines will be offered to our students every afternoon along with a nutritious snack. Students will be allowed to participate until 5:30p.m. Monday-Friday. We will facilitate the installation of youth groups and clubs such as Cub Scouts and Brownies to meet at the school.

Lifelong Learning

Through our partnership with OSU-OKC, we hope to provide GED classes and opportunities for adults to further their education. A college fair will be held at the school. Each degree program at OSU-

OKC will be represented along with representatives from financial aide. We welcome the opportunity to host adult literacy, financial literacy and other education programs at the school.

Neighborhood Development

Edgemere School has historically served as the hub of its community. The Friends of Edgemere School has renewed that sense of community within the school and will continue to provide support for community and family engagement. Neighborhood Alliance has already arranged through the City of OKC Office of Sustainability to list Edgemere Elementary as one of the three schools that will participate in a “Walkability Study” of the area with our 5th grade students. They have also listed Edgemere’s boundaries in their “First Week of July” Catholic Heart Camp house-painting project. Five houses will be selected by the PTA to participate.

As you can see, Friends of Edgemere School has demonstrated a consistent foundation of support for the school and has proposed meaningful goals for the future of our school and community. We have the proven ability to raise substantial funds. We have consistently advocated for the best interests of the students at Edgemere School. Therefore, we respectfully request to be considered as the pilot Community School for Oklahoma City Public Schools.



"Though I do not believe that a plant will spring up where no seed has been, I have great faith in a seed. Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders.

– Henry David Thoreau

Kelly Pearson, Friends of Edgemere Chair

Karen Orr, Paseo Originals Gallery

Brian Wilks, Principal Technologies and Edgemere Park resident

Brad Morelli, UCO Senior Legal Counsel and Central Park resident

Jackie Fix, Edgemere parent

Colin Strickland, Foundation for OKCPS and Jefferson Park resident

John Joyce, Pres. Engineering Solutions and Crown Heights resident

Edward H. Cook, Honorary Co-Chair

The Honorable Ralph G. Thompson, Honorary Co-Chair