



The Community Campus

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To the Woodstock Economic Development Commission:

As the 2020-2021 school year draws near in the midst of a global pandemic, the Windsor Central Supervisory Union school district, in order to stay in compliance with the CDC pandemic mitigations guidance, is currently planning to offer a hybrid of in-person and remote learning. The hybrid model will offer 2 in person days and 3 remote days for students in grades 3 through 12 and 4 in person days with 1 remote day for K – 2nd grade. While necessary within our school facilities, in order to reduce student density on school buses and in classrooms, this presents two critical challenges for our community: diminished opportunities for student achievement, and difficulties for working parents and caregivers who can't effectively attend to their children's learning during the school day. Both students and parents need more support than usual. Providing that additional support is the mission of the The Community Campus: a new community venture that harnesses the resources and strengths of our people and places to help students achieve.

What do students and parents need for mutual success? Students achieve academically when their social-emotional needs of belonging are addressed. Disjointed distance learning experiences that are not connected to peers, place and play undermine student achievement and can have lasting developmental effects. Parents, meanwhile, need to earn an income to support their family, and be confident that their children are learning and developing in a safe and supportive environment. Teachers in our district are offering a high-quality curriculum and support, and yet, many families have had difficulty accessing these supports given their more immediate and real needs to earn an income and manage other responsibilities.

How The Community Campus Can Help

The Community Campus creates safe independent school environments across our school district. In these environments, students can have structured days where their foundational social-emotional needs are addressed through **both** *a connection to the outdoors and place-based education* **and** *a connection to their local school teachers and their community*. The Community Campus believes that students learn best in communities where predictable and consistent routines are in place and barriers to learning remotely are addressed and removed.

- Students need the support in the form of *peers* who can help them 'normalize' their learning.

- Parents need the assurance that their children are having a '*school' day* that is safe, motivating, and enriching.
- Teachers need students who are *ready and excited to learn* so they can access their education and have fun.

All stakeholders agree: there is a need for consistent and structured programming for all of our children, Monday through Friday 8 am to 3 pm. The trick to meeting **the universal and non-negotiable need for safe and small learning pods in our community is to build intentional learning templates that can be replicated throughout our district.** Additionally, holding these learning pods together in conjunction with our WCSU educational community requires coordination and collaboration that cannot be met through the school district alone.

The Community Campus offers two immediate campuses — The Mt. Rainbow campus and ArtisTree — as templates for future grassroots campuses. Within these campuses, student enrollment for day-long structured programming will be based on a division of thirds: one third will be for essential workers, one third of the slots will be dedicated for parents who wish to opt-in to the program, and one third of the slots will be reserved for WCSU discretionary placement. We hold that this allocation of student enrollment in these campuses meets the integrated needs across all stakeholders and is equitable at this time.

This program will be funded and supported through a variety of funding sources:

- * Enrollment Tuition with tuition assistance for those who apply & qualify through WARF
- * Grant funding
- * WCSU collaboration and support
- * Fundraising endeavors
- * Community Partnerships

The Community Campus requests \$25,000 from the Economic Development Commission to mobilize its mission to meet the educational needs of our community in these unprecedented times.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions you may have regarding this new program.

Sincerely,



Tesha Buss
Director

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