



COMMUNITY-BASED LEARNING FOR FAMILIES



What is Community-Based Learning?

Community-Based Learning (CBL) is a way of learning where students connect what they're learning in school to the real world around them. Instead of learning only from textbooks, students learn by exploring their community, learning from local people, and working on real issues that matter to them and their families.

It values what students already know from their home, culture, and life experiences.

What Does it Look Like?

Students work on projects connected to their neighborhood, culture, or local history. Learning connects to real life, local culture, and community experiences while families are welcomed as partners in their child's education. Learning occurs in different places—like classrooms, community spaces, outdoors, or with local organizations. Students ask questions, solve problems, and reflect on how their learning affects their community.

What Are the Benefits?

- Children see their families, cultures, and communities reflected and respected in school.
- Students build confidence, communication skills, and a sense of ownership over their learning.
- Stronger relationships form between schools, families, and the community.
- Parents and caregivers can lend their expertise and lived experience!
- Students are more engaged because learning feels meaningful and relevant. Learning is about them, for them!

How Can I Support My Student?

- Ask your child questions about what they are learning and how it connects to real life.
- Share your experiences, culture, or skills with your child's teacher.
- Encourage curiosity by talking about community events, local history, or issues you care about.
- Attend school or community events connected to student projects, when possible.
- Let schools know what matters to your family and community.
- Seek out opportunities to be engaged and connected to your student's classroom and school.