



Prospective Parent Information

Welcome to Ann Arbor Learning Community...

Location

Ann Arbor Learning Community is located at 3980 Research Park Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48108. The office phone is (734) 477-0340 and the fax is (734) 929-6505. You can contact the office at the email address aalcoffice@gmail.com or a2learningcommunity@gmail.com or visit us on the web at: www.annarborlearningcommunity.org

Mission Statement:

The mission of Ann Arbor Learning Community is to nurture independent learners as they acquire the tools they need to shape an environmentally and socially responsible future. In a supportive, student-centered community that appreciates uniqueness, AALC helps students develop a strong sense of self and lifetime love of learning. The school fosters the development of essential life skills and core academic knowledge through small, multi-aged classrooms that honor the learning and creative strengths of each student.

School Hours:

- School Day:: School begins promptly at 8:30 AM and ends at 3:40 PM
- Office Hours: 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

About the School:

Ann Arbor Learning Community is a Public Charter Academy authorized by Eastern Michigan University in the fall of 1998. The school currently serves kindergarten through eighth grade with a potential capacity of 320 students.

Enrollment is open to all Michigan students without discrimination in regards to race, religion, special need or disability. As a public school no tuition is charged.

Educational Philosophy:

As supporters of student-directed education, we believe that children who enjoy and savor their years of schooling carry their enthusiasm to learn and grow into adulthood. We believe the children of the Ann Arbor Learning Community will learn to seek knowledge, ask hard questions, solve problems, pursue new interests, live cooperatively and contribute to our communities. Within student-directed learning we believe:

- Learning is multifaceted; we approach learning from many angles/models/processes/learning styles
- Learning is best accomplished when students are held to high expectations and standards; children are expected to dig in and invest themselves in the learning process
- Learning is most effective when parents and teachers communicate and share ideas and information

Diversity:

Ann Arbor Learning Community's staff and families promote diversity and seek a school population that mirrors our community. We encourage families to share their history, beliefs and celebrations. All students will be treated without discrimination.

The Campus:

Ann Arbor Learning Community is located at 3980 Research Park Drive, Ann Arbor MI, 48108. Key components at the site include areas for gardening, recreational activities and nature studies. The building contains classrooms, a media space, warming kitchen, gym and administrative offices.

Classrooms:

Students are in multi-grade classrooms. Student population in classrooms is targeted to be 20 students. Parents can be involved in the classroom environment offering help and supporting activities.

Transportation:

Ann Arbor Learning Community is not part of a public school district and does not provide transportation services for students. Families are responsible for transportation to and from school. The school office can help families communicate their interest in carpooling. AATA bus stops on State St. or Ellsworth Rd. are within walking distance of the school.

Lunch Time:

Organization: The student lunch/recess time is thirty minutes in length.

Lunch: Students must bring lunches from home. Ann Arbor Learning Community does not have a hot lunch program. Microwaves are available for students to heat lunches. In order for children to have energy for afternoon activities they need nutritious lunches. As a matter of safety, children are not allowed to bring beverages in glass containers.

Before and After Care Program:

Community Daycare provides before and after school care (Kids Club) at AALC. Kids Club currently serves students in grades K-8. The program extends from 7 AM (before school care) to 6 PM (after school care) on days when school is in session. You may contact Mary Anna Dickinson, Kids Club Program Director, by phone (734) 761-7101 or email: maryanna@communitydaycareinc.org

Art:

Each student attends art class for 90 minutes each week. A variety of activities and experiences are presented to the students covering a broad range of art history, appreciation and techniques.

Music:

Students will receive music instruction for 90 minutes each week. Recorder lessons begin at third grade and band is an option for students in grades five through eight.

Physical Education:

Students have 45 minutes of physical education with the PE teacher per week. Students are given recess at least once daily.

Drama/Dance:

Drama is offered as a Middle School elective, and is designed for students with varying experience from those who are novice to experienced performers. Our teachers regularly integrate drama and dance into the classroom instruction.

Middle School:

Students in grades 6 – 8 have a modified block schedule including elective classes; core subject classes facilitated by different teachers; and required physical education, art and music classes.

Homework Policy:

In the lower elementary grades (K-3) a limited amount of homework is generally expected of students and such assignments will be planned to ensure successful completion.

In the upper elementary grades (4-8) homework assignments should become a systematic part of each student's educational program. Such assignments will increase in frequency and scope so that by the end of sixth grade, at least 1 hour of homework will be regularly expected of each student. Such homework assignments should be designed to meet the needs and capabilities of each individual child and should be coordinated to insure successful completion.