

PROFILE: Learning Alternatives Community Schools

- *Principal's message, school highlights, demographics*
- *School purpose, vision, priorities*
- *Easy-to-Read Summary of data, test results*



Learning Alternatives Community School

8001 Able Street NE
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432
763-785-5531

SpringLakeParkSchools.org



PROFILE LEARNING ALTERNATIVES COMMUNITY SCHOOL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Message from the director



Welcome to the Learning Alternatives Community School.

We offer students a variety of options and programs in which they can receive their high school diploma.

Through individual learning plans and with personalized and differentiated instruction, we provide a safe, forward-thinking, student-centered, and creative learning environment. This environment is totally focused on the success of every student.

If you would like more information, call us at 763-785-5531

Director

Dave Carlson

Learning Alternatives Community School

8001 Highway 61 NE
Spring Lake Park, Minnesota 55434

763-785-5531

Enrollment

179 students

School Hours

7:25 am – 2:30 pm

Office Hours

7:00 am – 3:00 pm

Website

Springlakeparkschools.org

School demographics

- Percent of students eligible for free or reduced lunch 30%
- Percent of students receiving special services
 - Special Education 37%
 - English as a Second Language 13%
 - Gifted/Talented: 22%
- Diversity of student population (by percent)
 - Native American: 7%
 - Asian: 5%
 - Hispanic: 11%
 - Black: 12%
 - White: 64%

School highlights

- One of the few Minnesota alternative programs to achieve Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in No Child Left Behind.
- Sue Kvidera, our Math teacher, chosen as Teacher of the Year in the Spring Lake Park School District



- We are continually expanding services to serve the needs of students. We now offer these exceptional specialized programs.

Learning Alternative Day Program Provides an option for students who are looking for a non-traditional learning experience. We accept out of district students as well as Spring Lake Park students. This is the 2004 Minnesota State Alternative Program of the Year.

Independent Study, Morning, Afternoon, and Evening The independent study delivery system allows for students to recover credits while maintaining their current educational placement. This program is for current Spring Lake Park High School students, Learning Alternative students, and out of district students.

Lighthouse A nationally recognized program, providing a rich educational experience that matches the needs of the gifted, insatiable learner.

Life Skills Transition This program is designed for students age 17-21 who need additional training to prepare for independent living and working skills.

Summer Programs We offer a complete academic summer school program. In addition, our summer academy programs are designed for incoming 9th and 10th grade students attending the high school.

PROFILE LEARNING ALTERNATIVES COMMUNITY SCHOOL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



School Purpose

High expectations,
High achievement
For all.

No excuses.



- Learning Alternatives Community Schools provide a safe, supportive, and creative learning environment.
- Students are guided and held accountable for their individual educational development.
- Multiple pathways are offered for students to succeed both academically and socially.

School priorities

- Define, investigate, and apply 21st Century Skills
- Personalizing instruction
- Continue learning targets and matching assessments.
- Strive to again achieve Adequate Yearly Progress in No Child Left Behind
- Monitor and improve our Systems of Interventions
- Continued involvement in Assessment for Learning and Professional Learning Communities

Priorities were identified through ongoing review of school and student data and alignment with district strategic directions. To view the data, visit the School Information Report found on the Learning Alternatives Community School or Accountability home pages.



PROFILE LEARNING ALTERNATIVES COMMUNITY SCHOOL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Our district success system defines indicators of success within each of four strategic areas. At the core of our success system is the area of *Improving Student Learning and Development*. Regular review of our results across this success system results in the identification of improvement projects that will directly or indirectly improve student learning results by building on successes and addressing areas of needed improvement.

Areas of our Success System

- Core: Improving Student Learning and Development
- Effective operations, processes, and stewardship of resources
- Family and community connections and partnerships
- Professional Learning Community

Easy-to-Read Executive Summary of data, test results

Improving student learning and development

Accomplishments

- Created and implemented Continuous Learning Plans for all students
- One of a few Learning Alternative programs in the state to make Adequate Yearly Progress
- Significant increase in the graduation rate
- Increase in the attendance rate for the school
- Enrollment in Lighthouse Program doubled in one year
- LACS student elected to state MAAP STARS board and overall increase in MAAP STARS participation

Challenges

- Serving Lighthouse Program students during a year when enrollment doubled.
- Increased percentage of ESL students enrolled in LACS
- Increase in Free and Reduced Lunch students
- Increase in the drop-out rate
- Majority of students are credit-deficient

Effective operations, processes, and stewardship of resources

Accomplishments

- Created and implemented System of Interventions
- Created and implemented System of Privileges
- Created Site Operations Committee

Challenges

- Developing and maintaining the resources and services needed by a diverse student population

Priorities & Projects

- Student Support Specialist added

Professional learning community: curriculum, instruction, staff learning, student support

Accomplishments

- Continued use of Student Assistance Team

- Participated in professional development programs, including Adlai Stevenson PLC Institute
- LACS staff attended and presented workshops at Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs Conference
- Staff participated in content task force
- Academic decision-making process became data driven.

Challenges

- Collaborating and adapting the Professional Learning Community model to an alternative learning school setting

Priorities & Projects

- Diversity training
- 21st Century Learning Skills cohort
- Continue Professional Learning Communities
- Smartboard training

Family and community communications and partnerships

Accomplishments

- Learner Celebration and Awards Ceremony
- Successful Open House
- Southern Minnesota Flood Relief Project
- Volunteered at Feed My Starving Children
- Adopt-A-Highway volunteer program
- Volunteer service through Lion's Club
- Child Development class made blankets for Alexandra House
- Variety of field trips cultivated healthy recreational choices in our own community

Challenges

- More parent involvement
- Getting a majority of students involved in volunteer opportunities and to participate in school events

Priorities & Projects

- Increased family involvement by hosting a Family Fun Night
- Continue to offer volunteer opportunities
- Implement a school-wide civic literacy campaign