

Cottage Lane Elementary School – Grades 4 & 5

Brian Culot, Principal; Karen Ramirez, Assistant Principal

Cottage Lane Goals and Projects 2010-2011 School Year

- To enhance our interactive community website so that parents can access more information regarding what is happening in their child's curriculum and classrooms. These web pages will include curriculum across subject areas, projects, field trips, special events, and any other important information teachers want to share with students and parents. Teacher's web page(s) will be a vital tool for both parents and students to use in order to be more informed about teaching and learning in their classes.
- This past summer, six of our teachers worked with Innovative Designs in Education (IDE), developing problem based activities that provide student choices, and incorporate the use of technology, and the development of skills necessary in the 21st century. As a result of this work, we will be able to enhance existing units of study, as well as develop interdisciplinary components for students and teachers. All projects with IDE will include a writing component.
- We will continue use of Google apps in the creation of online open-ended, interactive tasks and activities, used to develop 21st century creative and critical thinking and reasoning skills. These open-ended projects developed with IDE meet the needs of diverse learners through various learning modalities, including art, music, videos, etc, that engage students at high levels.
- We will continue to look for opportunities to connect student learning to the "real world" through actual and virtual field trips. This initiative will help teachers further their work in creating an interdisciplinary exciting project-based curriculum that encompasses all content areas, including social studies, science, music, art, and technology.
- Cottage Lane will focus heavily on the district goal, Respectful Learning Environment, through the use of "Morning Meetings." This is a structure which has been built into the school day giving students a forum to develop and share their thoughts and thereby build a stronger classroom community. Our teaching staff will exchange ideas during scheduled discussion sessions designed to establish communication and development in problem solving through the Morning Meeting book, by Roxanne Kriete. We will continue to address the ongoing issues of bullying through the use of Olweus *Bullying Prevention* program by implementing specific lessons that address bullying and anti-social behavior.

Cottage Lane Goals and Projects (cont.)
2010-2011 School Year

- Some of the specific areas of focus for our character education program include: Caring, letter writing, appropriate greetings, eye contact, speaking, listening, sharing, and mutual respect. This work will be carried out through class morning meetings, monthly assemblies, and during lunch and recess activities. Furthermore, our Book-of-the-Month and Word-of-the-Month programs will help sustain our objective of giving the entire student body a common language in both discussion and action.
- This year, we will continue utilization of the WordMasters program for all students. We will continue to build our curriculum maps grade wide using team time to develop specific lessons, and assessments for these units of study. We will use our newly revised team time schedule to look closely at student work and revise lessons and assessments based on the strengths and needs of our students. We will sustain our search for specific opportunities in the Reader's and Writer's Workshops that will support our teachers and curriculum.
- We will continue to expand our Lego Robotics program incorporated new robots, as well as our after school Chess program, which will include more tournaments.
- To build on the process that began two years ago between TZE and WOS teachers around writing and student work, teachers in grades 3 and 4 (TZE and CL) and 5 and 6 (CL and SOMS) to enhance communication, to better align curriculum and instruction, and to create a common language around the writing process for our students and teachers.

We look forward to a creative, enriching, challenging and supportive learning environment for the 2010-2011 school year.