

## WHY WE BELIEVE WE ARE SUCCESSFUL

- \* We believe test scores do NOT suffer when time is given to teaching the whole child: the heart; social/emotional development; the ability to communicate; the creative spirit; the arts; intellectual learning; physical health; authentic exposure to a foreign language; nurturing appreciation for all cultures and valuing interdependence. All feed into academic excellence, self actualization, and future success.
- \* We believe our small size encourages our children and staff to form and extend meaningful, long-lasting relationships across grade levels that enhance learning and social skills, creating an environment where each finds belonging. We believe larger schools could nurture the same through multi-grade pods that proceed intact throughout a student's elementary years.
- \* We believe in honoring children through playful, intentional learning that teaches each child using a method that is best suited to that child and at a level that is most appropriate for that child. We do not teach children; we teach a child.
- \* We believe in TRUE parent/community involvement --not the empty Parent Involvement room, but a united group, working together to extend the educational impact of learning through fundraising, making decisions, meaningful volunteerism, and daily information about what is happening at school. We believe in ACTIVE parent/community ownership.
- \* We believe we are entrusted with the "possibility" of what each child could become.
- \* We believe we will never have it all figured out. Each year we make changes. There is seldom a week that we don't make changes. We are constantly trying new things and changing it up. What you see today will not be what you see tomorrow.
- \* We believe one of the best things we can do for our students is to build friendships between all staff members --we even go on a trip together in the summer. It is surprising how the climate of a school changes when staff members are close to one another.
- \* We believe in working hard, playing hard, and celebrating every success --no matter how small.
- \* We believe in providing children an extended, far-reaching view, outside the immediate area where they live, that captures their imagination and feeds their desires --without that, the potential and possibilities of many children will be limited to what they are now living and know.