

Providing Lifelong Learning Opportunities through Community Education

By Deb McDermott-Johnson
Director of Community Education

What happens at Roosevelt Community School? This is a common question as folks visit our building. Community Education's role is to extend school district resources to community members beyond the familiar E-12 school day, tapping learning curiosities that span the ages.

We add value to the richness of life in Owatonna by providing learning opportunities that focus on the human element of learning - relationship and connection. A trip to the theater, parent/child play time, an after school youth experience, or sharpening a work-related skill are all powerful opportunities to soak up the knowledge of others and collectively create new knowledge that contributes to your sense of well-being and connectedness with the greater Owatonna community.

While Community Education is based out of Roosevelt Community School, many of our programs are held across the full array of district facilities. We want our community to experience all the wonderful learning assets they have so enthusiastically provided over the years.

We have day trips, extended trips, and walking tours available. We host classes of general interest for creative living, finance, technology, guest authors, pets, and cooking. As our learning needs change with stages of life and family, your Community Education program presents opportunities that support these changes.

Community Education partners with the Owatonna Arts Center to host programming and events. We use district art rooms for a variety of private instructors as well - we keep you moving throughout the community!

Our brochure also hosts current learning schedules for your Adult Education Center. This award-winning program provides English language learning, GED Prep and Testing, as well as entry-level workshops for careers in nursing, trades, IT, childcare, and customer service. We also tackle college prep for those wishing to brush up before entering a degree-granting program and offer personal and family skill building through financial literacy, job search, work prep, and driver's education permit instruction. The Adult Learning Center recently received a Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation grant to support the entrepreneurial start-up of local businesses. We have a student navigator program that supports adults in their exploration of career opportunities and building the skills to land that dream job!

Community Education works with programming for 0-5 year olds for both parent/child programs and child-only programs. Early Childhood Family Education, Little Learners Preschool and Bright Beginnings Preschool have become hallmark programs in our community. School Age Care provides before school, after school, and non-school day programming. We also provide after school enrichment classes, spring break programming, and a full complement of summer experiences to keep our school agers engaged and connected.

As a side-bar to all of this, your Community Education program serves as the school district's Front Door for central enrollment services and Early Childhood Screening. We support the full journey of life!

Reach us at 444-7900 or owatonnacommunityed.org. The program services we provide are built around community need and interest - if you have an idea you'd like to teach or explore as a learner, we are here to walk that journey with you.

Let's learn through life together!