

EVANSVILLE ELEMENTARY

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PRINCIPAL: DONNA MATHERN
GRADES: P-5

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Evansville is a school that values the worth and dignity of every child.

The school is proud to stress high academic achievement and responsible personal conduct for students. The school consistently makes gains each year on the state assessment tests.

Students are actively engaged in learning experiences where they construct understanding and meaning through real-life, meaningful lessons and activities.

Evansville staff members hope that a new school building, slated to open as early as fall of 2008, will continue to provide real-life experiences for students, particularly with a science resource center on the nearby Platte River.

OUR STAFF

Students at Evansville learn from highly qualified teachers, most of whom have master's degrees. Nearly 20 teachers at the school have five or more years of experience at Evansville. Three teachers have one to three years of experience. The office personnel and aides at the school also have a combined average of five or more years of experience at the school.

Evansville also is committed to developing positive relationships between students and staff members. The school has worked to decrease class sizes ahead of a districtwide initiative. All kindergarten and first-grade classes have 17 or fewer students, and the same class size limits are expected to extend to second grade in 2007-08.

Students also have access to a counselor, a tutor and a social worker, while an instructional facilitator works with teachers to improve lessons for students.

OUR CURRICULUM

Students may begin attending Evansville as early as preschool, with the school's nationally accredited preschool program. Two sessions are held daily, with a certified teacher and a full-time instructional assistant who works closely with teachers and parents. Students at the preschool take part in fun, educational activities while also studying prereading and math lessons to prepare for kindergarten.

Older students at the school study math for 90 minutes a day through the activity-based Bridges program. Reading is taught for 2 1/2 hours a day in first through fifth grade and one hour a day in kindergarten, using the Balanced Literacy and Literacy First programs, which include strong emphasis on phonics and reading fluency. Students also use the Making Meaning program, in which they read books at their reading level and study comprehension. The 6 + 1 Traits of Writing program makes writing a priority in every class.

Students regularly have PE, art and music classes. A Young Writers Day allows students to publish and read their work publicly. Fourth-graders travel to Fort Laramie and the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center.

The school also uses a positive behavior program, rewarding students every nine weeks for good behavior in the classroom.

Special education students participate in regular classroom activities whenever possible, and their resource teacher is trained in the school's math and reading programs.

OUR ACTIVITIES

Classes at Evansville run from 8:50 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Students may participate in a before-school homework and tutoring program four days a week from 8 to 8:40 a.m., and an after-school tutoring program is available for students working to raise their scores in reading, math and writing. The Boys and Girls Club also has a branch at Evansville, open from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The school offers boys and girls volleyball and basketball, an African Drumming Circle, a series of science enrichment weekends and a before-school art club.

Track day is a popular tradition each year, with activities and a picnic lunch for students and their families. The annual book fair also invites students and families to gather at the school after-hours for fun and learning.

OUR FAMILIES

Evansville has an active PTO that helps pay for nine-week rewards, provides volunteers for activities, purchases gift certificates for every student to use at the book fair and helps make decisions about important aspects of the school. The PTO also will be involved in planning and decision-making for the new school building.