

Dear Parents,

In 1852, the first settler families came to the Camp Creek valley. Two years later, they established a small school for their children. Those settlers made their school a priority, and they made it “theirs.” For the past *148 years*, Camp Creek School has remained the hub and heart of the community, which maintains a boastful pride and sense of ownership in “their” school.

Times have changed! Today, parents have a growing number of schooling options to consider, and they do not make their choice lightly. Public schools seem too big and impersonal for some. Private schools are smaller, but expensive. Homeschooling sometimes doesn’t work out. Parents often struggle to find just the right fit for their children. In light of all of this...

The door is open! The welcome mat is out! Parents of Camp Creek School invite you to consider what is special about our *public* school, and what it has to offer your children *and* family. The pioneer spirit of those first settlers is still alive and well here! Budget woes have only served to highlight our strengths, our resources, and our unity of resolve to see that Camp Creek School continues to offer the kind of highly desirable, complete-picture education for children that it has been known for since 1854. We hope to inspire you to choose our small, rural school and share our pride.

In this packet, you will find quotes from a variety of people in, and outside of our school, but all of them aware of its special atmosphere that far transcends academics. We have included a few highlights from objective research that back up what generations of Camp Creek families have always known: ***Small schools work!*** Read this information carefully; it is revealing about what matters most in education. Lastly, please accept our invitation to visit our school. Meet the people, and see the setting that makes this small school work ***brilliantly!*** Even if you have no desire to change the schooling choice you have already made for your children, we believe that it is worthwhile for you to visit us. At the very least, you will come away with a feeling that you have stepped back in time, and have seen a public school that is very special indeed.

What’s so special? We are small, which is important, as research has shown. However, Camp Creek has other claims that make it uniquely capable of providing a stable and nurturing learning environment. Some examples: A significant portion of our staff are neighbors in the community, we have teachers who attended Camp Creek themselves, we have a mother and daughter teaching alongside each other, and grandparents who once attended Camp Creek now volunteering where their grandchildren are thriving. What’s more, our three full-time teachers have been at Camp Creek School for *an average of 15 years*. Another staffer is in her *27th year*. They love their jobs.

Positive relationships abound. Every staff member knows every child, and vice-versa. Special relationships with staff members are formed, often extending beyond the

classroom and the elementary years. Likewise, lasting, healthy peer friendships are the norm. Every child has an identity here. No one is anonymous at Camp Creek!

True to history, Camp Creek parents continue to be very involved with the daily life of the school in a wide variety of ways. Each classroom has parent volunteers nearly every day, and our PTA has won high state awards. Excellent parent coaches make our soccer, basketball and baseball teams wholesome and competitive. Every child feels needed on our teams. Recently, there was *100%* attendance at the parent-teacher conferences. Parent support is strong.

Support from the community has not waned over the years. Large turnouts for community meetings and social events regularly pack the gym with the generations of friends and families of Camp Creek School. Many enjoy coming to our monthly read-ins to be a reading buddy for students. Generous donations for improving our parking lot and security system have come from community members.

It is in the children that the results of this caring environment are seen. For example, all of the students met in the gym last spring for a square dance. Older kids paired with younger, boys with girls, with no hesitation, no stigmas! Every child enjoyed the dancing with confidence and a smile. Other characteristics that typify Camp Creek students are eager learning attitudes, teamwork, trust in and respect for authority, and many expressions of child-to-child kindness. Our kids carry this with them when they leave. At Briggs Middle School, “Camp Creekers” definitely have a reputation of being respectful, responsible, and academically top students.

Another option that some parents have been very happy with is combining part-time schooling at Camp Creek with homeschooling. For example, a student might attend Camp Creek only in the afternoons for science, music, art, PE, Spanish, and library, and be homeschooled for other subjects. This is flexible, and Camp Creek staff welcome families who want to try a part-time schedule. Linda, our school secretary, will put you in touch with parents who are using this method if you would like first-hand information.

Transfers are available for out-of-boundary students. A significant number of our families actually live in town, but are able to have the Camp Creek experience through boundary transfers. Any child in the district can apply to attend Camp Creek. In some cases, out-of-district transfers are accepted.

So again, we encourage you to check us out. The drive is short and scenic. If you’d just like to call and have some questions answered, please do. Ask to speak to Sue Thomas, our Head Teacher. She has a wealth of information that comes from a lifetime of involvement with our school. The school number is 744-6425. In any case, we believe you’ll be glad you learned more about Camp Creek: a small school that works!

Sincerely,

Parents of Camp Creek School