

KELLOM ELEMENTARY

1311 N. 24th Street

Omaha, NE 68102

Program Administrator: Tami Maldonado-Mancebo

Phone: 402-344-0441

Initial Site Visit: October 18, 2007



Program Overview:

Ages served: Pre-K through 6th Grade

Serve children with Special Needs: Yes

Number of staff: 32 (Pre-k—6th)

Number of children enrolled: 34—Pre-K, 68—K, 425 total

Serve low income children: 88%

Kellom opened in 1952, and in 1999 was designated as an Academy School, thereby ensuring small class sizes. Currently, there are 425 students, grades pre-kindergarten through 6th. The school community is diverse, and provides special programs, such as English as a Second Language and Challenges classes for the gifted and talented. Kellom graduates include Fred Astaire, Roger and Gayle Sayers, Bob Gibson, and Brenda Council. Kellom currently houses four all-day kindergartens, a half-day preschool, and 1st through 6th grades. 88% of the current population receives free or reduced lunches, 36.1% is Latino, and 45.5 is African American. The mobility rate is 67.5%.

From their application:

Kellom Elementary currently houses two preschool classrooms, one which serves children who are considered at risk, based on economic and academic standards, and the other which serves children with special needs. 100% of the children served have limited exposure to outdoor experiences. We have an ideal site, willing teachers and parents, and district and building administration support.





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Kellom opened in 1892 and was designated as an Academy School in 1999, thereby ensuring smaller class sizes. Currently there are 400 students, with a full day Pre-Kindergarten, a half day Early Childhood Special Education, and grades Kindergarten through 6th. The school community is diverse and provides special programs, such as English Language Learners classes and Challenge classes for the gifted and talented. The make up of the school is 33% Latino, 38% African American, and 15% Burmese. The mobility rate at Kellom is 67.5% and 90% of the current population receives free or reduced lunches. Kellom graduates include Fred Astaire, Roger and Gayle Sayers, Bob Gibson, and Brenda Council.

In 2007 a great opportunity was given to Kellom's Early Childhood playground, a grant from the Arbor Day Foundation and Dimensions Educational Research Foundation to create an Nature Explore Classroom. Once we started, we have not looked back. With the support of Administration, volunteers, parents, and community members our space has grown and developed into a certified Outdoor Classroom that makes us all proud.

Our space includes many defined centers for exploring nature. In Blocks, the students can create structures on tree stumps or a table. The next space is Digging, which is full of worms and fun. Discovery is full of tree cookies and surrounded by logs. Music and Movement includes a stage that was designed, built and installed by high school students from the Omaha Public Schools. Our Garden has been growing more and more each year with the addition of a grant from Keep Omaha Beautiful. Toys and Games, Sand and Water and Motor Center finish out all our spaces. A set of 16 tree stumps is used as a gathering area for the students.

Dana Miller (2007) summarizes most of the research out today, "Involving children in experiences with the natural world, such as gardening, also provides a holistic approach to teaching and learning. It addresses the needs of the whole child. Children of every age, ability, learning style, and developmental stage can be successful and connect with the natural world in meaningful ways. They will remember those experiences and most likely grow up with a deeper appreciation for the environment." (64-65) The Outdoor Classroom is a never-ending project with benefits that have proven to last a lifetime.

(UPDATE SUMMER 2010)

Volunteers at work



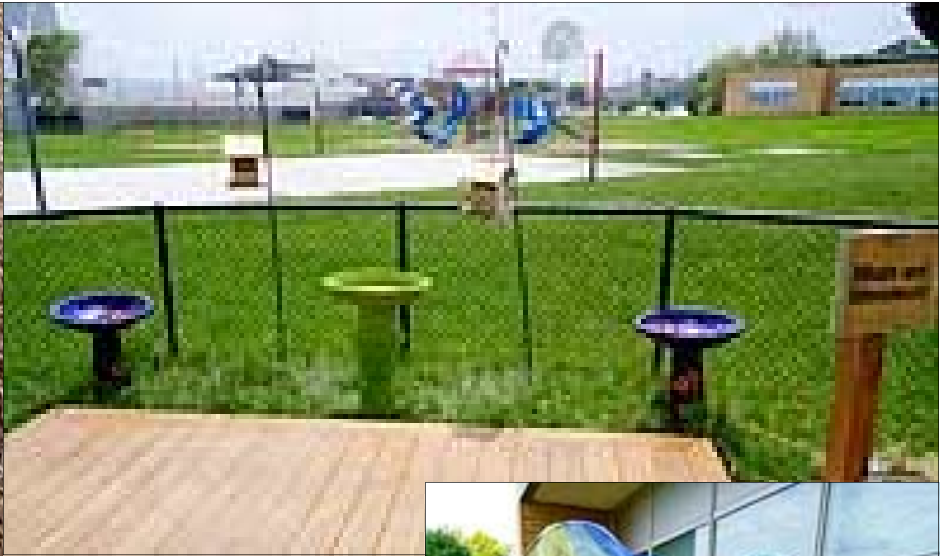
Photos provided by Kellom Elementary



Learning centers, stage in use



Photos provided by Kellom Elementary



Photos provided by Kellom Elementary

NATURE EXPLORE CLASSROOM
CONCEPT PLAN
 KELLOM ELEMENTARY 10/01

