

Eagle River Elementary School MicroSociety

Eagle River Elementary School is in its third full year as a MicroSociety School.

MicroSociety is a nationally recognized school reform model. MicroSociety schools create a functioning society within the confines of the school. Students in all grades participate in the program. In a MicroSociety School, students go to "work" at jobs within the school community, including banking, government, museums, theater, IRS, newspaper, small businesses, and non-profits. The job possibilities are endless; only dependent on the desire of the students and the abilities of the teacher and volunteer facilitators. This program provides students with the opportunity to understand how what they are learning in school relates to the "real world." It also provides many opportunities for the community to become involved in school activities in a way that relates to their expertise in business and services. In our first full year as a MicroSociety School, Standards Based Assessment scores increased in almost all areas. In addition, our school was the only school in the Anchorage School District to receive a "strong" rating by the State of Alaska, qualifying our staff for the Performance Incentive Plan program.

Eagle River Elementary School's primary focus will be to ensure that every student learns reading, writing and math skills while becoming a caring, knowledgeable, and responsible member of society. This program is school wide, affecting all students in K-6.

Each student graduating from Eagle River Elementary School, aside from learning the core subjects, will be proficient in the following:

- ✚ Government
Students have already written our Constitution and have elected representatives from classes as well as an Executive Branch. They will pass laws, collect taxes, etc.
 - ❖ *Enhance reading and writing skills*
- ✚ Legal System
Students will have a fully functioning legal system including judges and lawyers, as well as mediators.
 - ❖ *Enhance reading and writing skills*
- ✚ Small Business
Students will run small businesses that will include how to purchase supplies, pay taxes, market their product(s) etc. They will learn how to keep records with debits and credits.
 - ❖ *Enhance math, science, reading, art, music and writing skills*
- ✚ Philanthropy
All students will learn the benefits of philanthropy both from a personal level and a community level.
 - ❖ *Enhance citizenship skills*
 - ❖ *Learn about the world with our partner organization "O'Ambassadors Club"*
- ✚ Banking
A working bank system will be set up with each student having both a checking and savings account. In addition, the bankers will learn how to both charge interest on loans as well as give interest on Savings.
 - ❖ *Enhance math skills*
- ✚ Mass Media
A newspaper will be student run and eventually we hope to have a TV station.
 - ❖ *Enhance reading, writing, music, art and speech skills*

There are many other facets of a society that we will implement as we go along including, but not limited to, a historical society, museum, etc.

In order to make this project a reality, we need help from the greater society of Eagle River and Anchorage. We need mentors to help teach the students about small business, law, government, banking, etc.

For more information on how you can be part of this exciting new project, please contact Nicole Sommerville, Principal of Eagle River Elementary School @ 742-3000.