



Clara Barton Open School

Address: 4237 Colfax Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55409
 Phone: 612.688.3580
 Fax: 612.688.3590
 Email: info@bartonopen.org
 Web Site: <http://barton.mpls.k12.mn.us/>
 Mascot: Bulldogs

Grades: K-8
 Principal: Paul Scanlon
 Enrollment: 750
 Hours: 7:30 – 2:00

Clara Barton Open School is a student-centered, public K-8 magnet school fostering a community of active, socially conscious, life-long learners. We believe in:

Instilling a love of learning – We strive for a school that fosters a love of learning through passionate engagement, fun and creative experiences in a community of life-long learners.

Valuing each child for his or her perspectives - We strive to create a safe, caring and reflective environment that fosters personal responsibility and values each child for his or her perspectives and experiences

Interdisciplinary curriculum and culturally responsive instruction - We strive for an enriched curriculum that encourages choice, critical thinking, arts expression, social skills and intellectual engagement through various disciplines and collaboration while validating the cultural knowledge, prior experiences, and learning styles of all children.

Developing a community of mutual respect and equity - We strive for a diverse learning community based on mutual respect among children, teachers and parents and an awareness of the virtuosities and vulnerabilities of all learners.

Creative, courageous and collaborative inquiry for all - We strive to develop learners who think independently, who thrive in a diverse, global society, and have the will, skill, knowledge, and capacity for courageous and collaborative leadership.

Child-centered decision making & self-directed learning - We strive to live out the notion that children possess unlimited potential for making personal meanings of the world and that their voice is an essential part of the educational process.

Educating for a democratic society - We strive to value personal voice as well as the collective capacity of the human spirit to appreciate other perspectives through learning activities that strengthen community and one's sense of citizenship.

Magnet Focus: Open School teachers view the student as an active partner in learning and the classroom curriculum is tailored to individual learning styles, developmental needs and the intellectual interests of students. Open education is grounded in belief systems about children as capable learners, teachers as curriculum decision makers, the classroom and school as a microcosm of democracy in action, and the importance of adults and children engaging in authentic learning experiences, i.e., being readers, writers, artists, scientists, mathematicians and engaged thinkers exploring the world together. Barton Open emphasizes student-centered learning that is challenging, authentic, experiential and holistic. We emphasize cognitive learning that is reflective, constructivist, expressive and developmental. Barton Open School emphasizes social learning that is democratic, collaborative, and caring of others.

From the Heart

What people are saying about Barton Open School:

"The school provides students with a nurturing, stimulating and safe environment in which to grow and thrive academically, socially, emotionally and personally. Students love their school, behavior is exemplary and they find their work interesting, varied and mostly challenging." □ -From the Quality School Review, Cambridge Education, 2010.

"Almost every day when I ask my kindergartner how school was, he replies with 'awesome' and a huge smile. I'm so happy to see him become such an enthusiastic learner and I credit Barton's teachers and the open philosophy for helping him to grow." □ -Parent, primary student

"There is a mystique about Barton - top notch academics, caring teachers, creative expression - that is real and wonderful. That mystique radiates from the school's core, its commitment to Responsive Classroom and the relationships and confidence that the method produces." □ -Parent, middle school student

"Barton is what it is today because of its wonderful teachers and staff. They must be magicians because they always know what to do." □ -Ben, Barton graduate

What We Look Like

Student Race	School	District	Staff Race	School	District
Native American	.9%	5%	Native American	0%	1%
African American	24.2%	33%	African American	6%	7%
Asian American	4.7%	7%	Asian American	2%	3%
Hispanic American	4.6%	20%	Hispanic American	2%	3%
White American	65.5%	34%	White American	90%	87%

from School Year 2013-2014

Staff Ethnicity percentages are based on all teaching staff assigned to a building including teachers that are part time and assigned to multiple buildings.

Students	School	District
Receive ELL Services	13%	24%
Qualify for free or reduced lunch*	24%	66%
Receive Special Education Services	9%	15%

from School Year 2011-2012

CLARA BARTON OPEN SCHOOL - PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Emphasis on strong social skills and academic choice
 Multi-age classrooms and cross-age teaching
 Emphasis on the arts and the sciences
 Writing emphasized throughout the curriculum
 Emphasis on multiple intelligences and visual learning
 Active parent leadership and classroom involvement
 Portfolio sharing and student exhibition events
 Student-led goal setting conferences
 Performance opportunities in music and theatre
 Outdoor environmental learning experiences
 School-wide all-school morning meetings and daily classroom morning meetings.

EXTENDED-DAY ACTIVITIES: Minneapolis Kids Childcare, Barton Learning Center (extended academic support), community education classes, debate team, math competitions, inventors fair, student council, middle school athletics (girls volleyball, boys and girls basketball, boys baseball and girls softball), yearbook, musical, book fairs, tutoring/mentoring volunteers;

Teacher Quality

Barton Open School teachers are lifelong learners as well as teachers. They are constantly looking for ways to improve their teaching practice to better meet the needs of each child in the school. As an entire faculty we work together to continually improve the implementation of Responsive Classroom strategies and encourage each other to provide progressive curriculum and instruction.

Staff Survey: School Environment -- Safety & Respect

Responses from Staff
 Agree or strongly Agree

	Our School	District
Staff in this school provide a safe environment for all students.	100%	93%
I am often kept from teaching because of student misbehavior.	9%	34%
Staff in this school work well together.	94%	90%
Staff in this school show respect toward students of all races, cultures, and backgrounds.	100%	95%

District staff survey averages are district wide averages. From School Year 2010-2011.

Barton Middle School Program Highlights:

Classrooms in the middle school program are multi-aged (5-6 grade and 7-8 grade combinations). Students usually stay with the same homeroom teacher for two years in a row. The 5-6 graders are in a self-contained classroom for their core subject areas except for mathematics. The 7-8 graders are assigned to a team of six teachers for their core subject areas. Students take core courses in mathematics, social studies, science and language arts/reading from the team. Specialist classes include physical education, dance, music, art, media technology, and health.