



Welcome to Thornton Creek

We are glad you are considering Thornton Creek School for your child. At Thornton Creek, we enjoy an active partnership with parents that nurtures the intellectual growth and social emotional development of each of our students.

Our School at a Glance:

Location: Wedgwood neighborhood in Northeast Seattle
7711 43rd Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98115

Enrollment: 300 students, Kindergarten through Fifth grade,
drawn from the North and Northeast clusters

Curriculum: Project and theme-based curriculum that emphasizes development of both knowledge and character. Expedition projects culminate in exhibits, performances or publications that highlight student work, visual and performing arts, and community service.

Site Council: The governing body of the school, made up of parents, teachers and staff. Site Council works to build a rich educational environment for the entire community—students, teachers, staff and families. Committees include: curriculum, hospitality, district relations, communications, fundraising, grant writing and diversity/hiring.

Fundraising: **Walk-a-thon, Holiday Bazaar, Direct Appeal, Auction and Scrip.** Funds support: reduced class size; professional development; music; reading assistance; supplies; financial assistance; playground supervision; equipment; and library.

The Thornton Creek Difference

Our learning environment engages students in academically rigorous exploration and discovery. Our curriculum encourages creativity and promotes academic growth and critical thinking. Students learn to take responsibility for their class work as they participate in peer critique and work with their ideas through multiple drafts. Collaboration and teamwork are taught as learning strategies that help students to see events from multiple perspectives. Community is developed throughout the school with multi-year class assignments, class partners, daily class meetings, and parents as partners in the classrooms. Portfolios, conferences, student self-evaluations and teachers' written comments provide a comprehensive, developmental assessment of improvements in student work.

Our History

The Thornton Creek program was started as Alternative Elementary #2 in 1974, inspired by parents with children in private alternative programs who wanted a similar program in the Seattle School District. Five interns from The Little School in Bellevue and Pacific Oaks College started weekly meetings in the University District with interested and concerned parents, some of whom had been active in cooperative preschools. Everyone agreed that they wanted to develop an education option centered around the interaction between a school and its community. The program was started with 125 students and four teachers.

In 1997, the Thornton Creek community partnered with Expeditionary Learning Outward Bound (ELOB), a federally recognized New American School model. Since that time, we *continued on reverse*

have been working to integrate practices from this school design into all aspects of our school culture, targeting curriculum, instruction, assessment and school organization. This partnership has provided a wide array of opportunities for our growth as a project-based, experiential learning program that develops both knowledge and character. Our staff, students and parents have enthusiastically pursued these challenges and will continue this adventure into the future.

Today, Thornton Creek has an enrollment of 300 students, and it continues to thrive because of a committed staff and a high degree of parent and community support.

Our Mission

The staff, administration and families of Thornton Creek work cooperatively to meet the diverse needs of our students. We support and encourage the development of a school community that:

- * Addresses the social, emotional and intellectual needs of the child
- * Supports a collaborative, multicultural, experiential educational philosophy
- * Promotes the active involvement in school activities of parents and community
- * Extends our students' learning to the world beyond the school's classroom

Our Philosophy

Our school is based on the Expeditionary Learning Outward Bound (ELOB) model and the philosophical assumptions that:

- * Staff members hold high expectations for every student and support each student to achieve those expectations;
- * Learning at Thornton Creek supports children to develop an understanding of and participate in their community through engaging project-based learning;
- * Developing the social emotional intelligence of children builds a respectful learning environment and is the foundation for significant skill acquisition;

- * Classroom activities provide students the opportunity to take significant responsibility for their learning and assessment; and
- * Skill acquisition is a life-long process. Learning activities provide students the opportunity to discover how to learn.

We Invite You to Learn More

We encourage you to visit Thornton Creek and look for:

- * **Collaboration** among students
- * **High expectations** for each student's effort and work
- * **The class meeting** as an opportunity to discuss/respect a diversity of ideas
- * **Personalized relationships** among students, as well as between adults and students
- * **Students self-assessing** their work and the work of partners
- * **High-quality student work**

Additional information about our school is available on our website: www.seattleschools.org/schools/ae2

School Tours & New Parent Open House

School tours are scheduled during February and March on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, from 9:15–11:30 A.M. Tours will begin on Tuesday, February 24th.

We have also scheduled an evening new parent orientation on Thursday, March 5th, at 7:00 P.M.

If you have questions about our program or about touring our school, please call 206-252-5300 and ask to speak with principal John Miner or e-mail John at jminer@seattleschools.org.