

Friends School
OF MINNESOTA



What makes us a Friends school?

- Friends Council on Education
- Quaker practices
 - Meeting for Worship and silence
 - Decision-making
- Quaker values: SPICE



Who attends FSM?

- 166 students K-8
- 35% students of color
- 37% receive need-based tuition aid
- Wide range of family structures
- Broad religious representation
- All kinds of learners

Educational Philosophy and Program



- Kindergarten (17)
- Two first and second grade rooms (18)
- Two third and fourth grade rooms (18)
- 5th through 8th grade (up to 20 per grade)

We teach:

- Math, Science, Language Arts, Social Studies
- Music, Physical Education, Art, Spanish, Library
- Sexuality Education, Health, Conflict Resolution, Student Leadership
- Environmental Education
- Service Learning

Progressive Education

- John Dewey
- Meaningful interaction with ideas and materials
- Social context utilized for learning

Element One

- Each child is a unique learner with strengths, challenges, preferences, and passions.



Implications: Element One



- We treat students as active participants in their learning
- We provide a variety of ways to learn

Example: Research in Lower School



Element Two

- Children learn well in a community setting. The social nature of learning is emphasized more than competition.



Implications: Element Two



- Cooperative work plays a big role in academics
- We devote time to traditions and rituals
- Students work in mixed-age settings
- We use peer teaching
- We actively and explicitly teach how to be member of community

Example: Buddies



Element Three

- Children construct knowledge. They do not just receive content, but recreate and reinvent and build understanding along the way.



Implications: Element Three



- We use active teaching strategies
- Teacher is a guide rather than provider of information
- Emphasize higher-order thinking skills such as analyzing and synthesizing

Example: Presidential Elections



Element Four

- Children learn best through authentic, meaningful lessons and activities.



Implications: Element Four



- We teach about real, rich, and complex ideas
- We use real, rich, and complex materials
- We read, write, and use math for a purpose
- We integrate skills with project work, rather than teach skills in isolation

Example: 3rd and 4th Grade Newspaper



Element Five

- ➔ Affective factors have a big impact on learning. Children need to feel well-known, physically and emotionally safe, and accepted and recognized for their uniqueness.

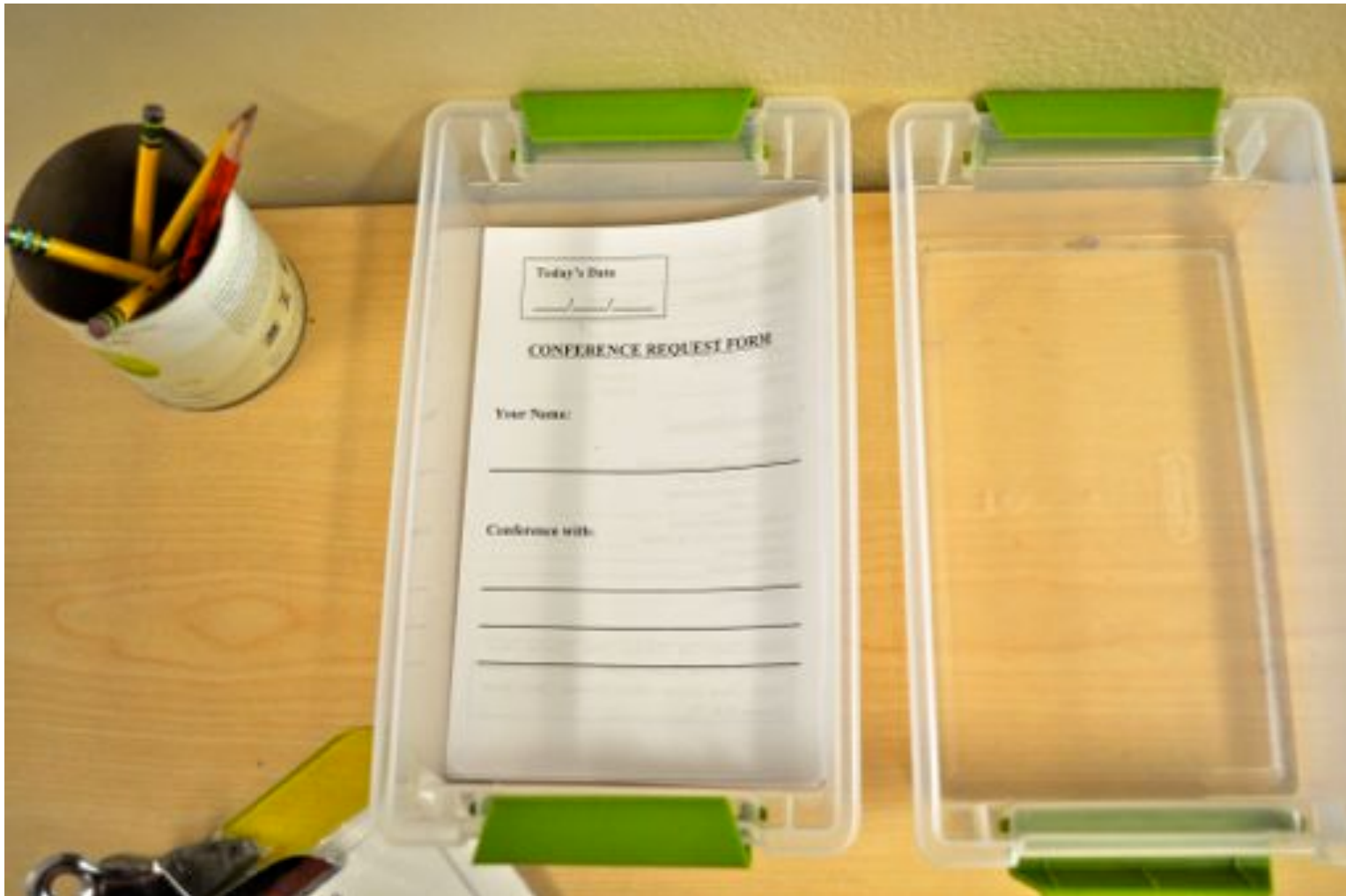


Implications: Element Five



- Small class size, small school
- Students and families have strong relationships with teachers
- We emphasize cooperative work
- We pay attention to similarities and differences

Example: Conflict Resolution



Middle School



Successful Middle Schools (NMSA)

- Teachers who know and like adolescents
- Shared vision
- Inviting, supportive, safe environment
- Relevant curriculum
- High expectations
- Active learning
- Adult advocates
- Family partnerships



Challenging and Engaging Curriculum

- Math: integrated curriculum, conceptual understanding, efficiency, algebra
- Science: Earth and Life Sciences
- Humanities: blocks integrating social studies and language arts

Community: Wolf Ridge



Choice and Options

- Sports
- Clubs
- After School Music
- Social Events
- Outings/Activities



Know Each Student



Friends School of Minnesota

THANK YOU FOR COMING!