

# Mitchell Elementary



**Go Bobcats!**

## **Small School by Design**

Located in the West Town/Ukrainian Village neighborhood, Mitchell Elementary is a PreK-8 public school facility. Our dedicated staff is committed to educating the whole child by focusing on the intellectual, physical and social-emotional growth of each student. We serve a diverse population of 360 students, 70% are low-income and 22% limited English.

## **Innovative Curriculum Design and Programming**

At Mitchell, teachers design curricula, instruction, and performance assessments that align with The Common Core State Standards. Through *Backward Mapping*, a meticulous endeavor that articulates what students will know, understand, and be able to do at each grade level, students are prepared for success in college and careers. Students connect their learning from year-to-year as they build towards a rigorous understanding of school-wide Big Ideas and Essential Questions (Wiggins, McTighe). Literary experiences are embedded in all subject areas through reading, writing, thinking and discussing.

## **Students and Families are Honored and Valued**

Students and families are welcomed to the school starting before Pre-Kindergarten through our tot-time program. Parents are involved in the school as room parents, through parent organizations, classes and volunteer opportunities. Student Council, peer mentoring and peer conferences allow students to have leadership opportunities in the school. We listen and respond to students and parents. In a recent survey we found that over 96% of our parents *always* feel welcome and respected in our school. This is extremely important to our continued success. Our community garden provides opportunities for multi-stakeholders to come together and participate in a locally and nationally recognized garden with a certified "eat what you grow" program.

## **Rigorous Standards for All**

Mitchell Staff exemplifies accomplished teaching with nine National Board Certified Teachers. Teachers who achieve National Board Certification have met rigorous standards through intensive study, expert evaluation, self-assessment, and peer review. Teachers have also presented at conferences across the country and are district leaders in Common Core implementation, The Reach Framework in Teaching, The Arts and have been recognized nationally for superlative classroom practice.

## **Focus on Enrichment and Arts Integration**

Mitchell School proudly offers enrichment opportunities rare in most public schools. Every student is immersed in our World Language Program where they learn about the Chinese culture and Mandarin Language. All students take Studio Art, Music, Physical Education and Dance every week. Our rigorous academic program is enhanced by our partnerships with key external stakeholders, including Bucktown Music, Hubbard Street Dance Company, Adventure Stage Chicago, Open Books, 826Chi, and West Loop Athletic Club. Our after-school programming for students and parents includes violin, guitar, rock band, chess, and cooking classes. Our Community Partner is Encyclopedia Britannica. Our Parent Organization is Friends of Mitchell.

## **School of Grant Recipients**

Our dedicated teachers research, pursue, and receive grant funds to support our students, families, and community members. Last year, Mitchell School won seven Chicago Fund for Education grants, the most of any school in the district. We have also received grants from Crayola NAESP, Donors Choose, Target, Chicagoland Bicycle Federation, Facing History, Openlands, CPS Office of Arts Education, The American Heart Association, The Oriental Institute and the Illinois Arts Council.