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South Orange Maplewood School District, New Jersey

# Seth Boyden Elementary School

## School Information Brochure



## Introduction

The Seth Boyden Elementary School was established to provide an innovative instructional program to meet the needs of a diverse student population reflecting the integrated communities of South Orange and Maplewood. Serving the entire community through voluntary admission, the school's academic program is designed to offer distinctive instructional opportunities and develop exemplary teaching/learning models for all students throughout the district in grades K-5.

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## Mission Statement

Seth Boyden believes that a healthy learning community requires diverse learners who support one another in growth of mind, body and spirit. We work to provide one another with a joyful, just, and creative atmosphere in which students develop into successful young adults who are peaceful, caring, intellectually alive, self-disciplined, confident, self-aware, and filled with knowledge of the natural world and a commitment to live in harmony with it.

## Our Instructional Values

**Constructivism and Inquiry:** Seth Boyden helps all children develop a love of learning through play, exploration, and inquisition. We embrace the whole child, understanding that no two children learn the same way; we work tirelessly to develop relationships with each student in order to tap into their interests, abilities, and unique learning styles. By providing students with an abundance of support, encouragement, and the courage to fail, they succeed.

**Diversity of Methodology and Content:** We help students discover and develop their unique skills and talents through the arts and academic programs with high standards that combine critical thinking and a whole-person developmental approach to learning. At Seth Boyden, students have the opportunity to explore music and the visual arts where they learn to use art as a language to express their thoughts, emotions and ideas. We ensure that all students have equitable time of instruction throughout the day by reducing whole class instruction and increasing targeted instruction that focuses on any misconceptions a student has when assessed on the NJ State Curricular Standards.

**Engagement with Our Environment:** With the expansion of the Outdoor Learning Center, all Seth Boyden students engage in an extensive Environmental Education program that is aligned with Next Generation Science standards. Aspects of this program include care for the earth and self through gardening and an Outdoor Learning Classroom to engage with project based learning experiences in a outdoor setting.

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**Commitment to the Development of Non-Academic Skills:** Our students will learn how to care for their physical, mental, and emotional health by learning holistic practices at age-appropriate levels. The school community, with the leadership of the faculty, work together using best practices to promote healthy relationships and lasting positive experiences.

**Caring and Civility:** Seth Boyden utilizes Responsive Classroom as one of many tools with which to help students develop confidence in themselves as well as the ability to work with and respect others. Teachers help nurture a sense of belonging and camaraderie in the classroom through daily meetings and logical redirection. Students feel safe and secure to take risks, all while learning skills such as empathy, cooperation, and self-control.

## **Our Community Values**

**Partnering with Our Parents:** Our PTA offers many ways for parents to be involved in their kids' school, whether through volunteering during the school day or volunteering that can be done from the office or home.

**Partnering with Our Community:** Our PTA coordinates a series of popular community-building events that give everyone a chance to get to know each other. Just a few examples are: the Fall Harvest Festival, Movie Night, the Variety Show, Ice Cream Socials and the Spring Roller Skating Party.

## **Actions**

### **We Will:**

- Embrace the diversity of our community
- Embrace rigorous and difficult conversations
- Actively engage the entire community in decisions
- Actively choose to make our focus about students
- Always seek to address misconceptions and misunderstandings
- Always seek to find the best opportunities for the community to grow in positive ways



### **Becoming a Seth Boyden Community Member:**

**Registration:** If you would like to opt into Seth Boyden, please complete the Student Transfer Request Form for Kindergarten located on the Registration page of the District Web Site:

<http://tinyurl.com/SOMSDRegistrar>

**Tours:** Tours are given by appointment on Thursdays and Fridays at 9:00 am and 2:30 pm.

Please call 973-378-5209 or email [ccadoret@somdsd.k12.nj.us](mailto:ccadoret@somdsd.k12.nj.us) or [mfaugno@somdsd.k12.nj.us](mailto:mfaugno@somdsd.k12.nj.us) to make an appointment!