The Community School Initiative at Lansdowne Elementary School
“Community Schools mobilize students, families, educators, and community members to develop a grassroots vision for their schools and communities, and they work together to achieve their vision.”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5dTXujuJRc0

-NEA
Why should we be a community school?

The Community School strategy is evidence-based:

✓ Improved student learning
✓ Improved student attendance
✓ Improved student behavior
✓ Increased family engagement in learning

data based on nationwide study by
The National Coalition for Community Schools

How do we make it happen?
Baltimore County’s CS Commitments

College & Career Readiness

Equity & Inclusion

Family & Community Engagement

Health & Social Supports

Safe & Supportive Learning Environment
Who becomes a CSF? Someone with K-12 educational experience and their MA in School Counseling, Social Work or a related field.

Meet Your CSF (Community School Facilitator)

Alexandra West

• Former School Counselor at LES
• BA in Psychology with an emphasis in Human Services
• MA in Clinical Mental Health and School Counseling
Role of the Community School Facilitator

- Guides the Needs Assessment.
- Creates the Community School team.
- Uses data to create and implement the Multi-Year Plan.
- Leverages partnerships and resources around the school and community needs.
- Maintains relationships with all stakeholder groups to move the work.
- Builds capacity of stakeholders through leadership development.
- Continually assesses where we are and where we need to go.

A charitable, cause-driven organization working for community well-being.

The Y.™ For a better us.
A Comprehensive Needs Assessment will allow us to plan for the process.

- Gather, organize, analyze, and report the current picture of our school community.
  - Community & School Resource Inventory
  - Existing Data Review

- Include the voices of LES stakeholders equitably and inclusively through surveys, interviews, listening sessions to identify the needs of those we serve.
  - Students
  - Staff
  - Families
  - Community Members
  - Business Partners

- Provide a realistic picture to inform our Community School Action Plan.
CS Shared Decision-Making Team

- Include the voices of ALL LES stakeholders
  - Students
  - Staff
  - Families
  - Community Members
  - Business Partners

- Identify and plan for resources to meet the identified needs of our school family.

- Meet monthly to use Needs Assessment and ongoing data to plan for our school’s needs
Building our Community School

- **Capital Resources**
  - COP (Community Oriented Policing Services) grants
  - Donations/grants
  - Business partnerships

- **Human Resources**
  - Volunteers
  - Programs
  - Connections
  - Talents
A charitable, cause-driven organization working for community well-being.

The Y.™ For a better us.
What are our current resources?

**College & Career Readiness**
- MTSS supports, data-driven small groups, school supplies, career lessons, ESY, ELO

**Equity & Inclusion**
- Diverse classroom libraries, COVID tutoring, Equity team, translated newsletters

**Family & Community Engagement**
- Watch D.O.G.S., meal program, family nights (math, reading), Parent Presentations from support staff

**Health & Social Supports**
- Nursing Assistant, School-based mental health partnerships, meal program, school supplies give away

**Safe & Supportive Learning Environment**
- Schoolwide CD, staff PD on trauma informed schools, resource staff support and coaching
Next Steps

Conduct Comprehensive Needs Assessment

Build our Community School Shared Decision-Making Team

Identify resources, talents, and connections in our school community