



# Communication Development (CD)

New Lenox School District 122

## Program Description

The Communication Development (CD) program is a self-contained special education program designed to meet the needs of students with significant speech and/or language difficulties that require a small-group setting to increase their academic success. Students served within the CD program typically present with significant delays in expressive, receptive, pragmatic, and/or processing delays. These students require intensive speech and language therapeutic interventions to help improve language skills such as understanding and following directions, figurative language, vocabulary, comprehension, and use of language in the classroom. Additionally, the students require direct instruction in all or most core academic areas.

One classroom of CD programming is offered at the primary level (grades 1-3) and at the intermediate level (grades 4-6). Each classroom is taught by a certified special education teacher and is co-taught for a portion of the school day with a speech and language pathologist. These qualified professionals co-plan and co-teach lessons to integrate

language concepts within the core curriculum. Students are instructed in large group, small group, and individual settings based on the students' instructional levels and IEP goals/objectives.

Instruction within the CD classroom is designed to increase student achievement while building expressive, receptive, pragmatic, and language processing skills. Staff utilize a multi-sensory instructional approach to make concepts come to life and assist students in retaining academic concepts for gradual reintegration into a general education environment. Classrooms have increased visual and nonverbal supports to reinforce daily schedules and academic concepts.

Students participate in appropriate activities with their same-age peers in the general education setting as deemed appropriate by the IEP team. Other related services (OT, PT, SW, etc.) are provided as indicated on the students' individualized education plan (IEP).



### Arnold J. Tyler Elementary School (Grades 1-3)

The CD program for grades 1-3 is located at Arnold J. Tyler Elementary School. Tyler School is located at 511 East Illinois Highway in New Lenox. Student attendance hours are 9:15-3:40.



### Caroline Bentley Intermediate School (Grades 4-6)

The CD program for grades 4-6 is located at Caroline Bentley School. Bentley is located at 513 East Illinois Highway in New Lenox. Student attendance hours are 7:35-2:00.

## What curriculum is used?

Our teachers instruct from a variety of curriculum to meet the unique needs of each student. District core curriculum is utilized with accommodations and modifications. In addition, core curriculum at a modified level and intervention programs will be utilized based on the individual needs of the students. All curriculum is aligned to the Common Core State Standards and is designed to hold the students to high academic standards.

The special education teacher and speech and language pathologist co-plan each lesson to integrate speech and language concepts within the curriculum being used. Visual supports and a multi-sensory approach are used to teach curricular concepts.



## What related services are offered?

All students within the CD program require and receive intensive speech and language therapy throughout the week as outlined on their IEP. This therapy is delivered through a combination of large group, small group and individual therapy sessions.

In addition, students may receive additional related services (OT, PT, SW, etc.) as outlined in the students' IEPs. These services may be delivered within the classroom in a small group or individual basis or outside of the classroom in the related service provider's therapy space.



## How are students exposed to their non-disabled peers?

At a minimum, students within the CD program participate in a general education homeroom and fine arts with their non-disabled peers at their grade level. In addition, students join the general education environment for lunch/recess, assemblies, field trips, and other special events.

In addition, each student's IEP team will help determine the appropriateness of additional general education involvement based on each student's unique needs.

Ongoing collaboration between the general and special education teachers take place throughout the school year to ensure a well-rounded school experience.

