



What is a CommUNITY School?

Community schools offer a personalized approach that emphasizes real-world learning and community problem-solving. Schools become centers of the community and extended opportunities for school home and community connections.

Community Schools Provide:

- Reduce barriers to student and family wellbeing.
- Integrate academics, health, and social services.
- Support youth development and engagement.
- Foster local partnerships and community collaboration.
- Emphasize real-world learning and problem-solving.
- Strengthen school, home, and community connections.

Community School key practices



Integrated systems of support:

Specialized teams work with students, families, and community partners to assess needs, strengths, and interests, coordinating services that remove barriers and create opportunities for individuals.

- 1,174 Referrals to CS Coordinators for student or family support.
- 998 Care Closet Visits for clothes, hygiene items, etc.
- 121 referrals from Coordinators to NNH stability.
- 73 referrals from Hamilton County School social workers to NNH stability.
- \$2,640 thrift store vouchers given.
- \$19,060 financial services was provided to families from NNH case manager.



Out of these referrals, we assisted 59% of these families for the first time.



Rigorous, Community-Connected Classroom Instruction:

Community school classrooms prioritize purposeful student engagement, with a focus on inquiry-based learning and problem-solving. The approach integrates real-world skills and opportunities into the curriculum, fostering deeper connections to practical application.

- 130 Community Partners provided resources to support the school.
- 30 events supported by partners.



Enhanced Learning Opportunities:

Students explore passions and interests through reimagined learning opportunities, combining academic instruction, enrichment, and extracurricular activities that extend beyond classroom walls, deepening skills and understanding in meaningful ways.

- 94% of regular program attendees were promoted to the next grade on time.
- 100% of high school seniors that participated in programs graduated on time.
- 80% of regular program attendees classes were passed.
- 70% of regular program attendees had 4 or less absences.



Personalized Culture of Belonging, Safety, and Care

The school community values every individual's unique contributions, fostering safety, purposeful relationships, and resilience, ensuring students build meaningful connections with peers, educators, and the broader school community.

- 708 students participated in small groups.
- 6,219 touch points with students families, or school staff related to student well-being.



Powerful Student and Family Engagement

Students and families actively shape school priorities through decision-making, sharing wisdom and experiences to guide pathways for student, school, and community success.

- 9,922 attendees at 106 parent and community events.



Collaborative Leadership, Shared Power and Voice

Students, families, educators, and partners co-create systems that build trust, shared leadership, and decision-making, empowering collective learning, advocacy, and ownership.

- 44 School leadership team meetings attended.
- 3 schools created student leadership groups.



2024 highlights

- In 2024, we established five new CommUNITY Schools, expanding our presence to a total of ten schools in Northern Hamilton County!
- Red Bank Elementary joins the Community Schools Forward Community of Practice, showcasing a strong commitment to equitable and impactful community school practices.
- Redbank high school had a record high graduation rate.
- NNH created a Community School Playbook as a comprehensive guide offering strategies, processes, and best practices for successful community school implementation and sustainability.



This past year was full of impact! We look forward to creating an even larger one next year!