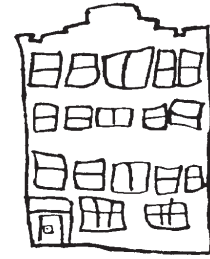


# Cold Spring School..... a history



Cold Spring School was founded in 1982 by a group of parents who wanted the philosophy they admired at a much-loved childcare program to continue through their children's elementary school years.

From the founding years to the present, our fundamental belief that children learn best when they are actively involved in the educational process has guided teachers and staff in the creation of a rich, child-centered learning environment. Teachers understand and respond to the strengths and challenges of each child and build a respectful partnership between student, teacher and family.

To build a strong learning community, children usually stay with the same Master Teacher for two years in a mixed-grade grouping. These groupings provide younger children with the opportunity to learn routines, procedures and expectations from older students. Conversely, older children develop leadership skills through interacting with younger children as reading buddies, fitness buddies and in classroom situations.

When CSS moved to its current location in 1987, a fitness teacher was hired. Within several years, art, music and Spanish were added to the curriculum and separate part-time teachers were hired. The selection of Spanish was a way for students to foster a multi-cultural perspective and connect to the largely Hispanic neighborhood through language.

Parents founded Cold Spring School and parent involvement is still important to the program. Parents serve on committees, share professional skills within the context of a thematic study, chaperone field trips and are a visible presence in the daily life of the school. The Board of Trustees has always been comprised almost exclusively of current and former parents. Leadership and implementation of the school's mission have been carried out through two directors: Irene Fiss from 1987 to 1998 and Jeff Jonathan from 1998 to the present.

Cold Spring School is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization accredited by the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools and it is a member of the National Association of Independent School. The school enrolls 127 students from 14 Greater New Haven towns. Cold Spring is committed to fostering cultural, racial and socio-economic diversity and does not discriminate on the basis of color, race, religion, age, gender, national or ethnic origins.