

Valeria

Ms. Okun & Ms. O' Neil

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The Learning Community: A New Opportunity

On June 30th 2004, a public charter school got final approval from the Department of Education- A school called the Learning Community Charter School. This school is different from others because the school staff focuses on each student, so the students understand what they are learning. The school wants kids to master lessons before moving to the next.

While Ms. Cheryl Luciano was working at Family Service Agency she noticed that students in public high schools graduated barely being able to read. In Ms. Luciano's interview she said she saw "too many kids falling through the cracks." She wanted to have "a voice for children." Ms. Sarah Friedman also had similar thoughts. She was really mad almost throughout her whole life that in schools across the country and in Rhode Island, kids weren't being talked to respectfully and that they weren't being challenged. During the same time, Ms. Sarah also worked with Ms. Meg O'Leary (who is one of the co-founders of the school) in Providence public schools. They noticed that kids were receiving "some bad" education and "some good" education, according to Ms. Meg. Kids were not being taught properly and teachers did not have the proper materials to teach.

The school had many goals, that were accomplished! A goal of the school was to honor kids' intelligence within them, and to keep up with them at the level that they are learning in. The Learning Community Charter School is a school where parents are connected, and where they'll be heard and a part of, like family. A goal many people can relate to is to make kids feel like they are being, respected, challenged, honored, and a part of, too. A problem they have

prevented and saw in some schools was that teachers that can teach with creativity had to follow a system that wasn't even good. Teachers also weren't getting good teaching resources.

To spread the news of the opening school, Ms. Luciano and Ms. Sarah drove around in Central Falls for days, stopping anywhere they saw kids and families, to give them information and applications for the school. The opening of the school was announced on the radio station, 100.3 around at the time when it had begun. Progreso Latino helped a lot. One of the ways they helped was by spreading the news. After their first year teaching at the Pawtucket YMCA, Progreso Latino looked for another place for the growing school members to teach and with time they started teaching in the building at 21 Lincoln Ave. R.I, Central Falls.

Above all, The Learning Community started in order to give children a better education, so they don't get "cheated." Founding this school took a lot of effort, but it was worth it. The school was started for teaching K-6, but is now for K-8! As Ms. Cheryl Luciano said " the dream of having a school worked because everyone believed in what the school will become." She said " it's like planting a seed." The Learning Community Charter School still continues to grow!