

Eugene Field Accelerated School, located in St. Joseph, Missouri, is one of 18 elementary schools in the St. Joseph School District. Nestled in a beautiful, established residential area in the central part of the city, Eugene Field serves 342 students. The 37 member staff is committed to achieving the school's mission, "to create a place where all students are challenged, enriched, and can utilize their individual strengths and talents to flourish in a caring and positive environment." It is a mission that affirms the past, celebrates the present, and holds high hopes and expectations for the future. The school's firm foundation, and its heart and soul, are the sound instructional techniques that are grounded in education research about best practices. The school community uses the Accelerated Schools process to guide data analysis and focus the work of cadres in aligning school initiatives to support assessed needs. The process has led to intensive training of a balanced literacy program, inquiry learning, and the Missouri grade level expectations. During walk throughs, the administration sees evidence that teachers are facilitators of child-centered classrooms, where students use strategic approaches and metacognitive structures to guide their approaches to learning.

Dedication to student learning extends beyond the traditional school day at Eugene Field Accelerated School. Because of a strong desire to provide students with the tools and confidence needed for success, activities such as the Eugene Field Singers, Tiger Tutoring, Art Club, basketball, Geography Club, Breakfast Book Club, Soccer Club, and a Math Club take place for students both before and after school.

Field has always enjoyed a history of low teacher turnover, stable family population, and high student achievement. Believing that children can only be successful when they have a sense of belonging, the community wraps itself around this school and provides more than 2,000 hours of volunteer services each year. Dedicated business partners and the school's PTA generously support the school with additional resources for the children and work tenaciously to provide numerous family activities at the school. Parents are visible in the school on a daily basis, providing valuable services such as volunteering in the lunchroom and library, tutoring struggling students, joining students on field trips, and assisting with office duties. Parents who qualify for substitute teaching positions fill in when teachers are unable to attend school.

Through the collaborative efforts of focused leadership, dedicated staff, and caring families, Eugene Field students consistently achieve success.