

# Our School Our Community

## Scavenger Hunt

McGlone Elementary School

Denver, CO



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

McGlone Elementary is intentional in how it builds its school culture and establishes shared school values. One of the school's core values is Shared Community, which means that all school staff are familiar with the local neighborhood and view the community as essential partners in educating and serving students and families. One way this is accomplished is through the Our School, Our Community Scavenger Hunt.

Grounded in the shared belief that family and community involvement in their neighborhood school is critical to students' success, the Our School, Our Community Scavenger Hunt has three goals. These are: 1) To lay the foundation for a school culture that understands and collaborates with the broader community; 2) To help teachers meet key community members, become familiar with neighborhood establishments, and continue to build relationships outside of the school building; and 3) To familiarize the community with the school and its staff.

At the start of the year, the administrative team at McGlone Elementary works with community leaders, local business owners, and oftentimes parents and students to learn where students are most likely to spend their time when not in school. The administrative team then puts together a half day school and neighborhood scavenger hunt for all school staff. During their professional development time before students arrive, teams of staff wearing McGlone shirts head out across the school campus and into the surrounding area. Examples of activities on the Our School, Our Community Scavenger Hunt include meeting the school janitorial staff or going to the biggest apartment complex in the neighborhood. Over the course of three hours, teams must then take photos with the people, items, or places in order to complete the activity.

The administration at McGlone Elementary believe the Our School, Our Community Scavenger Hunt is the first step in laying for foundation for strong family, school, and community partnerships and sets the tone for the school year. McGlone Elementary's Principal has found that since implementing the scavenger hunt, there has been a decreased teacher turnover and increased teacher satisfaction, greater team collaboration among educators, and deeper relationships with the community with more support for the school and its staff.