

## CASE STUDY BRIEF

Since 2013, the Partnership for 21st Century Learning (P21) has annually designated 21st Century Learning Exemplars based upon exceptional implementation of the [Framework for 21st Century Learning](#).

Each year, P21 has highlighted a cohort of early learning centers, K–12 schools, school districts, and beyond school programs in the U.S. as 21st Century Learning Exemplars. Now that P21 is a network of Battelle for Kids, we are leading together in celebrating the current year of 21st Century Learning Exemplars.

As part of celebrating these awardees, Battelle for Kids and its P21 network provide ways for their stories and impactful practices to be shared with others. This case study brief and those for the other awardees provide powerful insights to guide other school districts, schools, and programs so that every child can experience the best of 21st century learning experiences.



### Wolf Springs Elementary School Overland Park, KS

Designed and created with 21st century learning outcomes in mind, Wolf Springs Elementary School equips their students with the skills and mindsets to affect change in their local and global communities.

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**Grades Served:** PreK–5

**Enrollment:** 342 Students

Founded in 2017

[Website](#)

Dedicated Blended Learning Coach

Entire staff trained in personalized Buck Institute (now known as PBLWorks) project-based learning

# Wolf Springs Elementary School

## Overland Park, KS

### Whole-Child Growth

Wolf Springs Elementary School is committed to fostering the development of contributing and productive citizens of the world through whole-child growth.

Before the doors opened in 2017, school leaders led extensive collaborative ideation sessions to ensure that the learning environment and school-wide goals were aligned with the vision of a Wolf Springs graduate. With clear goals of student-centered, whole-child focused learning, the school provides extensive, ongoing professional development in both Conscious Discipline and social and emotional support.

One example of how Wolf Springs keeps this common culture central in student and teacher minds is through monthly Wolf P.A.C.C.s (personal, acceptance, community, and commitment). Cross-grade level groups of nine or ten students meet with a Wolf Springs staff member to discuss topics such as kindness, self-esteem, resiliency, and the importance of giving back to the community. Through the P.A.C.C.s, children are able to make connections across grades and with adults, fostering an environment of trust and acceptance.

The school further reinforces the lines of communication and inclusivity with daily morning classroom meetings and afternoon broadcasts, daily rituals that provide a sense of belonging and grounding to the entire Wolf Springs Elementary community.



### Chinese Immersion and Cross-Cultural Awareness

Envisioned with the assistance of the University of Kansas' Confucius Center, the school district selected Mandarin as their dual-language offering for its strategic and global importance to empower students on the global stage as future change-makers.

With additional consultations at Mandarin dual-language programs in Utah and Oklahoma, the district established the ambitious goal of having their students complete high school speaking at a grade 8 level. Utilizing the three Ps of the national world languages standards—products, practices, and perspectives—students are encouraged to comparatively consider their Chinese counterparts' daily lives and interests.

Additionally, all grades offer Spanish as an extended language opportunity, further proof of the district's commitment to creating effective global citizens.



## Project Based Learning and Explore Cohorts

With a focus on project- and problem-based learning, Wolf Springs models their professional learning cohorts after P21 Exemplar high school, Blue Valley CAPS. Students interview for placement in one of five cohorts based on interests and strengths, and once placed, kick off their journey with an immersive day within their designated field. For the most recent year, student cohorts include sports medicine, chemistry, education, agriculture farm to table, and digital media.

Working closely with community members on real-world applications, cohorts convene for mystery lessons, field trips, or other events that provide exposure to the profession. The cohort culminates with an authentic, student-driven public product, such as the parent informational videos being created by the digital media group.

Other school wide projects, such as the [arboretum project in Overland Park](#), enhance the school-wide focus on project-based learning and enable students to practice their skills in local, community contexts.



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## 2019 21ST CENTURY LEARNING EXEMPLARS

Each of the following earned this year's award for its outstanding practices in equipping students with the necessary skills and knowledge for success in college, career, and life:

### Early Learning

The Goddard School Located in Broadview Heights  
(Broadview, OH)

The Goddard School Located in Simpsonville  
(Simpsonville, SC)

### K-12 Schools

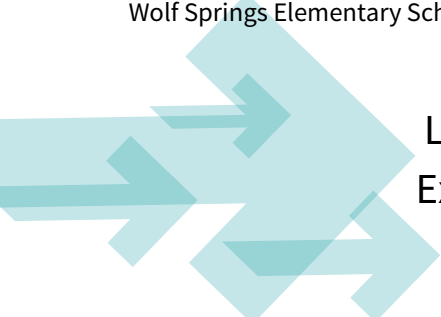
Canyon Crest Elementary School (Fontana, CA)  
Elon Elementary School (Elon, NC)  
EVSC New Tech Institute (Evansville, IN)  
Henry Ford Academy: Alameda School for Art + Design  
(San Antonio, TX)  
Kairos Public School Vacaville Academy (Vacaville, CA)  
Kensington Elementary School (Waxhaw, NC)  
Moreno Valley High School (Moreno Valley, CA)  
Saint Ambrose School (Brunswick, OH)  
Santiago Charter Middle School (Orange, CA)  
Valley View High School (Moreno Valley, CA)  
Vineyard STEM Magnet (Ontario, CA)  
Vista Heights Middle School (Moreno Valley, CA)  
Wolf Springs Elementary School (Overland Park, KS)

### Districts

Lennox School District (Lennox, CA)  
Vicksburg Warren School District (Vicksburg, MS)

### Beyond School Programs

Camp Champions (Marble Falls, TX)



Learn more about the 21st Century Learning Exemplars at: [bfk.me/p21\\_ExemplarProgram](https://bfk.me/p21_ExemplarProgram)