

Investing in the Whole Child: A New School Design

OVERVIEW

Van Ness Elementary, an innovative district-run school in Washington DC, and Transcend, the field's premier "engine" for R&D on new school models, are partnering to create a powerful elementary school model that has the potential to transform elementary education in the District of Columbia and—when fully realized—the nation.

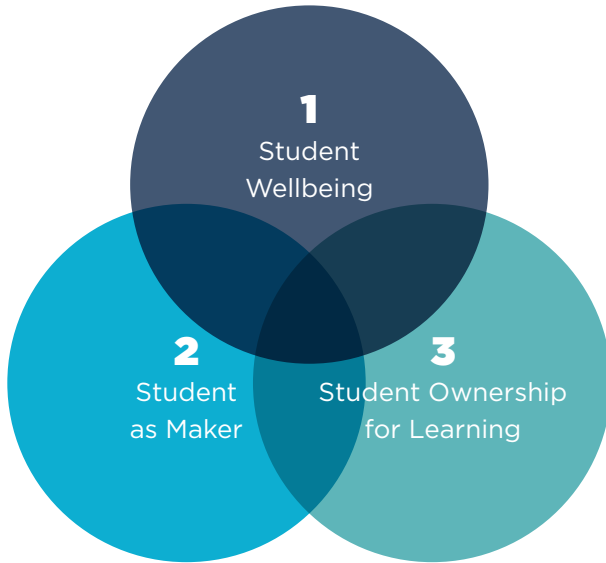
Since they opened in 2015, the Van Ness team, under the inspiring leadership of principal Cynthia Robinson-Rivers, has been building a model that thoughtfully integrates the full range of academic and socio-emotional supports that children need in order to learn and thrive. The model exemplifies the types of practices that DCPS hopes to implement in all schools and has already generated huge demand across the city. Last year, Van Ness won the District's Standing Ovation Award for Innovation and hosted over

120 visitors who wanted to learn about the model and how it might be implemented in their own schools.

From the start, Van Ness envisioned a model that impacts students far beyond its own walls. In 2016, Cynthia and her team joined forces with Transcend to further evolve the school design, gather evidence of impact, codify the approach, and eventually spread Van Ness' breakthrough school model in DC and beyond.

THE VAN NESS MODEL

The Van Ness model is rooted in the belief that we can—and must—attend to the development of the whole child while also achieving excellence in academics. Three innovations form the core of our model:



AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH

With confirmed interest from the District and from elementary schools across DC, Van Ness and Transcend are ready to fully develop, codify and spread this powerful model across DC and beyond. In the spring of 2019, we will lead a community of practice among three to six local elementary schools to pilot ideas and strengthen our model. By summer 2019, we will launch our first cohort of five partner elementary schools in the district that wish to adopt our approach to social and emotional learning. Ultimately, our vision is that hundreds of school communities will adopt some or all of our model, not just in the District of Columbia but across the country.



Join Us!

We invite you to invest in Van Ness and accelerate the creation and spread of a school model that will **transform the lives of 15,000 students over the next four years.** With your support, we will reimagine elementary education!