

June 14, 2010

Northville Public Schools Early Childhood Education Programs earn national NAEYC accreditation

Program among the top in the nation

Northville Public Schools Early Childhood Education Pre-K programs located at Main Street School and Ridge Wood and Thornton Creek elementary schools have earned accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) — the nation’s leading organization for early childhood professionals.

“We’re proud to have earned this mark of quality from NAEYC, and to be recognized for our commitment to reaching the highest professional standards,” said Early Childhood Education and Extended Day Program Coordinator Eileen Freeman. “NAEYC accreditation lets families in our community know that children in our program are getting the best care and early learning experiences possible.”



To earn NAEYC accreditation, Northville’s Early Childhood Education team of administrators and educators completed an extensive self-study process, measuring the program and its services against 10 NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards including more than 400 related accreditation criteria. The program received NAEYC accreditation after a site visit to each of the program’s three locations by a team of NAEYC assessors to ensure that the program meets each of the 10 standards. NAEYC-accredited programs are also subject to unannounced assessment visits during their accreditation, which lasts for five years.

In the 23 years since NAEYC accreditation was established, it has become a widely recognized sign of high-quality early childhood education. Almost 8,000 programs nationwide, serving one million young children, are currently accredited by NAEYC – approximately 8 percent of all preschools and other early childhood programs.

“The NAEYC accreditation system raises the bar for preschools, child care centers and other early childhood programs,” said Mark Ginsberg, Ph.D., executive director of NAEYC. “The NAEYC accreditation of the Northville Public Schools Early Childhood Education Program is a sign that they are a leader in a national effort to invest in high-quality early childhood education, and to help give all children a better start.”

The NAEYC accreditation system has set voluntary professional standards for programs for young children since 1985. In September 2006, the association revised program standards and criteria to introduce a new level of quality, accountability, and service for parents and children in child care programs. The new standards today reflect the latest research and best practices in early childhood education and development. NAEYC is committed to using the newest studies and analysis on positive child

outcomes to ensure young children continue receiving the highest-quality care and education possible.

The Northville Public Schools Early Childhood Education and Extended Day curriculum is child-originated and teacher framed. The licensed and accredited programs exist to meet the real needs of children, provide them the freedom to enjoy childhood and put their physical, emotional and intellectual well being first. The programs include child-care, preschool classes, parent/child classes, and before and after school care.

For more information about these programs visit the Early Childhood website at www.northville.k12.mi.us/earlychildhood or call 248.344.8465. The Early Childhood offices are located at Ridge Wood Elementary School, 49775 Six Mile Road, Northville, Michigan, 48168.



Preschool teacher Nancy Schuerman talks with students in their Ridge Wood classroom about their plans to plant seeds outside.