

## Silver Lake Elementary School Profile

Silver Lake Elementary School is located in the Village of Silver Lake, Ohio. This school is a part of the Cuyahoga Falls City School District, while retaining a unique flavor of the vibrant village where it sits. Silver Lake Elementary School was established in 1919, one year after the village was incorporated. The original enrollment was 19 students in grades 1-8 and 2 teachers.

In recent history, Silver Lake Elementary has had an average enrollment of 250 students. We have two classes per grade level for kindergarten through grade five. Two classes per grade level allows for the consummate family environment to truly be established each year. Knowing the importance of exposing students to a wide range of experiences, our students have music, art, gym, library, and technology class weekly. The teachers and staff know the students by name, have created lasting relationships with families, and are invested in the betterment of the whole child. The welcoming nature of this environment sets the stage for the optimal learning environment.

Our parent group, the SLE Home and School League, is a phenomenal advocate for the learning of all students at Silver Lake. This PTO holds monthly organizational meetings as well as countless committee meetings. Each month, there is a community event, a philanthropic event, and/ or a fundraiser to help provide support and encouragement for the students and staff of our Silver Lake Family. Everyone is welcome and the community-school concept is truly thriving because of our strong parental support.

The extended family of the Silver Lake Village is a foundational piece to keeping our school safe and strong. The Silver Lake Police Department has a visible daily presence in our schools, acts as role models for safety, and continually represents the importance of college and career readiness. The Cuyahoga Falls Police Department conducts a drug free program yearly in

our school. The Mayor of Silver Lake visits often and shares in our pride of creating a positive learning culture for our student body. Our Career Day attracts members of our community and the extended Akron area to promote the vast choices that our students will have in their future. This presence of community individuals helps to bring real world leaders into view for our students.

The instruction at Silver Lake Elementary is designed based around data rich deliberations that are teacher led. Through teacher based teams, functioning as part of the Ohio Improvement Process, the teachers collaborate to refine skill-based instruction that uses evidence and research based teaching strategies. Teachers use differentiation to individualize their approach to instruction. Grade levels use vertical grouping, cluster grouping, and cooperative grouping for skill based lessons.

Project Based Learning is used to enrich interests, broadened the understanding problem solving, utilize critical thinking, and promote community involvement. We have authentic learning experiences for each grade level that are developmentally and age appropriate, technology rich, and full of creative thinking. For example, our second grade classes design a lemonade stand for the student body and parents that is interdisciplinary, as well as stretching student learning through supply and demand, advertising, and public speaking.

A long lasting PBL experience that has become a hallmark of Silver Lake Elementary is our self-sustaining food pantry. Starting as an authentic learning experience for a third grade class, this has become a program that is now a part of the By Laws of our Home and School League, has teacher volunteers, and students across the entire building creating fundraisers and promotions to help take care of our very own families. Extending to partner with The Church in Silver Lake and the Akron Food Bank, we provide weekly Tiger bags full of food and sometimes

even clothing enough to outfit an entire family. Our students run the food bank, learn about the laws and guidelines that govern this, and help to keep the records and documents that are required to do this properly. This service project is truly a mirror to the caliber of the student population at Silver Lake Elementary.

When walking up the majestic steps of Silver Lake Elementary School after passing through the grand columns that surround the entry way, students and families quickly find a welcoming environment with a culture centered on kindness, caring, and acceptance of everyone. We make a promise together every day to be respectful, take responsibility and practice safety.