Welcome to Commerce Elementary - Video Transcript

Well there are many reasons why Commerce is really a special place for our kids to learn and grow each day. First of all Commerce really feels like a school family so we enter our school it really feels like the students, the parents and the staff feel like they're a part of something great.

Each member of our school community is really valued and important and so it's really that positive climate that makes our school is such a special place. One of the things that's so special about our school is that our staff is really committed to creating a culture of thinking for our students.

Our vision for education extends beyond just rote memorization or isolated skills. We really want our students to be critical thinkers and problem solvers, to be innovative and to be adaptable learners so that means that we create learning opportunities each and every day that promote those dispositions.

And lastly Commerce is known for our character education. We believe in promoting empathy and compassion and respect and leadership within each and every child.

Commerce is really known for the people that make our school so special, it's not one program and one person it's really a collective effort of all of our stakeholders that really make our school special. I also believe that our school is known for our staff being deeply committed to continuous growth. Professional learning, book talks and constantly searching for a better way to meet our students needs are some of the traits that really define us as a professional learning community and also it's our parent involvement so you have a really genuine partnership with parents rarely can I walk down the halls of our school without seeing a parent volunteering in a classroom or helping in the hallways.

We also have a tremendous PTA that raises tens of thousands of dollars each year for our school and beyond their fundraising efforts they're just really deeply engaged in our school and our partnership with parents is really strong.

I often get the opportunity to talk to graduates; high schoolers college graduates we even have some parents who went to Commerce Elementary as children which is really wonderful and one of the things that overwhelmingly they talk about is they talk about the teachers. The teachers that believed in them, the teachers that made a difference in their lives, and that's something that overwhelmingly comes up in each conversation I have with our graduates.

We have really high expectations for our students here in Walled Lake Schools. We have rigorous expectations for literacy development, for math, for science and social studies, for the fine arts and physical education and so we really expect that all of our students leave our schools with an excellent high quality education.
Beyond that we also know that each child is unique and so that means our teachers spend time assessing each child knowing what their strengths are, knowing what their areas of improvement are, and so that means that whether a child is struggling or needs to be challenged or is working at grade level we meet each child where they're at and you set individual learning goals for each child and that's part of our district vision of meeting the needs of every child every day.

Well the decision on where to send your child to school is a really important one and we know it's one that parents don't take lightly and as a staff we know that we have a tremendous responsibility to meet the needs of our children and at Commerce we have a long tradition of academic excellence and high achievement. It's something we're very proud of when you compare Commerce Elementary with other schools throughout the state we consistently rank as one of the top schools in the state of Michigan but beyond that we're also really proud that each and every day as you walk into our school you'll see what we refer to as shining eyes, you see children whose eyes are lighting up with excitement about what they're learning. They're engaged, they're motivated and so that tradition and history of academic excellence and those shining eyes are really the things that we believe make our school such a special place for kids to learn and grow each day.