



Long Valley Charter School

INSIDE:

Struggling student finds new hope at charter school
Page 3

One student's path to career success started at Long Valley **Page 4**

Partnering with parents
Page 6

———— *A Personalized Path to Academic Success* ————

Where Students Thrive



A PERSONALIZED EDUCATION TO FIT EVERY LEARNER

Long Valley Charter School offers programs in three communities:

DOYLE CLASSROOM-BASED PROGRAM AND RESOURCE CENTER

GRADES: Transitional K-8 for classroom-based program, TK-12 for Personalized Learning, also free preschool for 4-year-olds.

LEARNING MODES: In the classroom-based program, students take academic courses on campus five days per week, with enrichment from music and art teachers. Students participating in Personalized Learning programs attend as needed for tutoring and classes.

PORTOLA RESOURCE CENTER

GRADES: Transitional K-12

LEARNING MODES: Our Personalized Learning program is individualized and is delivered through several educational models: online classes, in-center support and enrichment workshops. Enrichment opportunities include violin lessons from noted musician Amber Corr, former fiddler with Kenny Rogers' band.

SUSANVILLE RESOURCE CENTER

GRADES: Transitional K-12

LEARNING MODES: As in Portola, Susanville's Personalized Learning program offers several models. Enrichment opportunities are provided by staff and the local community and include writing, dance, art and music.

Long Valley Charter School helps students be successful in school and in life.
PHOTO COURTESY OF LONG VALLEY



Connecting With Our Community

Long Valley offers choice in education

by Evan Tuchinsky

From the very beginning, relationships have played a fundamental role at Long Valley Charter School.

Originally opened in 1871 as a public school and relocated to its current location in 1968, Long Valley faced closure by 2000. Parents, teachers and community members banded together to keep the Doyle campus open; their collective effort led to 15 years (and counting) operating as a classroom-based charter school for grades preschool through 8.

Ten years ago, when Long Valley first renewed its charter, the school added a Personalized Learning program in Susanville for grades K-12. Five years ago, for the second renewal, Long Valley added a comparable program in Portola. The school explored multiple sponsors before finding a stable, supportive partner in the Ravendale-Termo Elementary School District.

Amid the transformation, school Director Sherri Morgan says, "The staff and families have done an outstanding job staying focused on learning. Students have continued to grow and be nurtured."

Such is the bond — the relationships — between faculty, parents and pupils.

Now, with three programs, Long Valley Charter School serves approximately 385 students, transitional kindergarten through 12th grade, in Plumas, Lassen and Sierra counties.

"We work with students who are in the 'gifted' category as well as those who struggle, because we meet every student where they are, academically and socially," Morgan explains.



"We meet every student where they are, academically and socially."

Sherri Morgan
Director, Long Valley Charter School

Through its Personalized Learning program, Long Valley offers a variety of educational options to help students and their parents personalize a path to academic achievement that reflects the unique interests, passions and needs of each individual. Options include classroom-based instruction, Personalized Learning, home schooling, online and blended learning.

"We require that students achieve mastery of the California State Standards; how they get there is where the individualization happens," Morgan says. "We've shifted the question of, 'What do you want to be when you grow up?' to 'What problems do you want to solve when you grow up?' Students leaving our program are prepared for college or the world of work as they have had the opportunity to reflect on their passions and take an active role in their learning long before they graduate."

Developing personalized educational plans for each child is a collaborative process.

"We're really unique in the sense that we don't just get to know the students but also their parents, their siblings, their aunts, their uncles," says Melissa Leal, who coordinates curriculum and instruction at Long

Valley.

"It truly is a family event."

Again, the model for success circles back to relationships.

"Our teachers, when they're hired, know and understand relationships come first because we believe in the quote from Rita Peterson that you cannot teach a child until you reach a child," Leal says.

by Evan Tuchinsky

Empowering Passions, Inspiring Dreams

Student finds path to success through Long Valley

When Connor Rogers was a ninth-grader in Los Angeles, he seriously doubted he'd ever graduate high school. His grades were low, and his heart was in his music, not academics. He dreamed he'd be a guitarist in a band; college didn't enter his plans.

"Then reality was setting in," recalls Connor, now 18. "I was realizing I wasn't meeting any other serious musicians who want to do this."

Connor says he began to think, "I'm not gonna make it, so I need to go to school where people are going to be motivated to do this for a career."

He targeted Berklee College of Music in Boston and Musicians Institute in LA — but that meant he needed his diploma even though he lacked inspiration at school.

"School was just unbearable for me," Connor says. "I was in a hole, and I

definitely didn't know how to get out of it."

Long Valley Charter School provided the lift.

When he was 16, Connor and his mother moved to Plumas Pines, while his father and brother stayed in Southern California. His mother walked into the Portola Resource Center one day. She learned about the Personalized Learning program and shared the details with

**"It was really nice
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do that."**

Connor Rogers
Long Valley Charter School alum



Long Valley alumnus Connor Rogers teaches a guitar lesson to current student Olivia Fragiaco. Though Connor had struggled in traditional school, he thrived at Long Valley and is now pursuing his dream of becoming a musician at the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston.
PHOTO BY ANN POWERS

Connor, who enrolled right at the start of the term.

"I'm all about fate," he says, and he knew from the first time he met his teacher, Miss Erin, that he belonged at the charter school.

"She was a great teacher and really helped me get on my feet," Connor says. "I'm an independent worker with my music, so when it came to school it was really nice to be able to tell my teacher the way that I work best and they would let me do that."

He began his junior year behind on credits and with a GPA under 3.0. He caught up on all missing credits, and when he graduated with the class of 2015, he'd earned a 3.6 GPA.

In addition, as a senior, the school commissioned him to teach guitar. He gave weekly lessons to nine other Portola students, ranging in age from 6 to 16.

Currently he's providing instruction to Miss Erin's 12-year-old daughter, Olivia.

Capping his transformation and achievement of his aims, Connor was accepted to the Berklee College of Music. He'll start at the prestigious music school this fall, and credits Long Valley with helping him get there.

"I definitely recommend doing charter school from the start of high school," Connor says. "It's definitely better because you can hone in on [schoolwork] and go at your own pace. I just think it's smarter."

PERSONALIZED EDUCATION MEETS LEARNERS' UNIQUE NEEDS

In education, one size doesn't fit all. The factory model of learning is no longer effective. Each student is unique.

That's especially true at Long Valley Charter School, which is why the concept of "Personalized Learning" is a hallmark.

Personalized Learning is different from traditional classroom learning. It was recognized in July 2004 by the California State Senate as a distinct learning model in California public education.

"Our program allows students at all academic, social and emotional levels to be successful," says Ann Weaver, lead teacher at the Susanville Resource Center. "We help students get ready for college-level coursework and inspire those students struggling below their grade level."

Teachers test each child to ascertain strengths and weaknesses, then guide the student and parents in creating a curriculum plan designed to meet

each student's personal needs. Students have many options to choose from in meeting academic goals, and can learn the way they each learn best. Students can learn with a combination of approaches, through textbooks, online materials, in-class lessons or at home.

"The additional effort to personalize learning for each student is rewarded with their success," Weaver says.

A Place to Grow

Student able to pursue his passion in college thanks to Long Valley's support

by John Flynn

Kevin Basurto just finished his first year of college, an accomplishment that seemed unlikely when he first entered Long Valley Charter School's Doyle program, which offers classroom-based education from grades pre-K to 8, and teacher-assisted Personalized Learning through high school.

"When he was in preschool, he didn't speak English," says teacher Ann Weaver. "Nor was he fluent in Spanish. His ability to communicate was severely limited."

Kevin's language abilities were a few years behind his peers as his family had immigrated from Mexico with limited English skills. But Weaver continuously adjusted the curriculum to fit his unique needs. Helping him focus on learning to spell just five words at time instead of 20, for example, helped Kevin become successful.

"When we started doing that, he [started] relaxing," Weaver says. "He'd actually learn all five words."

The school community became even more important when his family experienced an unexpected crisis. One day, a police officer stopped Kevin's mother, Edith, for a broken taillight. The stop led to her eventual deportation. For three years, Kevin only saw his mother on brief trips to Tijuana. Throughout this challenging time, the Doyle community rallied around Kevin, supplementing the support that his mother wished she could have given.

"My friends did what they could, helped the teacher help me and told me to keep on going," Kevin says. "Especially around high school, my friends were like family members."

"Especially around high school, my friends were like family members."

Kevin Basurto
Long Valley Doyle graduate



Kevin Basurto overcame learning difficulties and his mother's deportation thanks to the support he received at Doyle.

PHOTO BY NAOMI CROSBY

Eventually, Edith received clearance to return and was welcomed back with a huge banner and bright bouquet from the school.

Over the years, Weaver watched as Kevin steadily blossomed as a student. He became ever more engaged and his academic achievement improved.

He also discovered a new passion when he began drawing a comic strip series about his life in high school. Weaver would proofread the pieces, helping further refine Kevin's English. Before Kevin left Doyle, he left a final gift for the school that had given him so much.

"On the wall, next to where he sat, he posted all those comics," Weaver says. "We left it up all year."

This encouragement of his art interests led Kevin to pursue graphic design in college. After spending kindergarten through 12th grade at the school, Kevin's journey exemplifies the power of Doyle's personalized approach to education.

"I think this program has been the best thing for him," Weaver says. "His dad has even said so. His dad looked at every one of us, and almost with tears, said, 'I can't thank you enough for what you've done for my son because he is going to be able to go on.'"

EDUCATION TAILORED TO STUDENT NEEDS

At the Long Valley Charter School in Doyle, each student receives personalized education in a classroom-based environment from preschool to eighth grade.

The school's approach to "mastery-based education" gives students what is necessary to fit their learning needs. If students excel in or need help with a concept, teachers adjust the curriculum to achieve those skills, regardless of age or grade.

"The education is as individualized as we can make it," says teacher Karen Rust. "I think all students benefit from this type of teaching."

Doyle classrooms are intimate, most with fewer than 25 students, and are led by capable and invested faculty members.

To offer personalized support, instructional aides are available in every classroom all day, every day to ensure each child is supported

and challenged. The school also boasts integrated technology, equipping all students with a laptop after they complete second grade. The iReady computer program provides every student with personalized, computer-aided instructional time that regularly assesses mastery of standards and provides targeted instruction.



Misty Brussatoi, a first-grade teacher at Doyle, says she appreciates the sense of community at Long Valley Charter School.
PHOTO BY NAOMI CROSBY

A Sense of Community

Former student becomes teacher at Long Valley Charter School by Mike Blount

Long Valley Charter School has been such a big part of Misty Brussatoi's life that she thinks of the people who work there as family. Brussatoi attended school at Long Valley from second grade until she graduated, and a sense of community brought her back. Today, she works as a first-grade teacher at the school's Doyle classroom-based program, working side by side with some of the people who taught her when she was a student. Her two children also attended Long Valley.

"Being a parent and a student here — with my children having the same teachers that I had — there's a real comfort in that," Brussatoi says. "You know they're going to get the same education that you got. The teachers here are all united in working together to better the education of our kids."

Due to the small class sizes of only about 15-25 students per classroom, teachers set curriculum for each student individually. This allows students to work

at their own pace and learn through their strengths. Brussatoi says the students have more drive when they can work at their level because they are not frustrated or unchallenged.

"Teachers at our school are truly there to meet all the needs of every student."

Misty Brussatoi
First-grade teacher at Doyle

Because Brussatoi witnessed the dedication of the teachers first-hand when she was a student, she was inspired to become one herself. To Brussatoi, the teachers are what set the school apart, and she often collaborates with them.

"If I have any questions, I can always go to the other teachers and they're always willing to help me," Brussatoi says. "I've had great mentors over the years."

In the seven years she has worked as a teacher at Long Valley, Brussatoi says she especially enjoys working with the parents and her peers. Brussatoi says teachers are available to speak with parents and address any concerns they may have. As a result, parents have a lot of trust in the teachers at Long Valley.

"Teachers at our school are truly there to meet all the needs of every student," Brussatoi says. "If a student left their lunch at home, we can let the parents know instantly through email or text message and ask them what they want to do. And parents don't hesitate to call us and ask to meet. They are pretty comfortable with us and the lines of communication we have to get in touch with us."

A WELL-ROUNDED EDUCATION

Long Valley's Doyle classroom-based program offers activities and learning opportunities that extend beyond the classroom:

SPORTS

- Cheerleading, basketball, volleyball and cross country are offered.

NUTRITION

- **TEAM NUTRITION:** Long Valley's food service specialist brings in visitors from outside the school to speak about the importance of eating healthy. Past visitors include Highway Patrol officers and members of the California Conservation Corps.
- **FEAR FACTOR:** This lunchtime competition aimed at expanding students' culinary horizons challenges a team of students to eat different kinds of exotic food, like escargot or boiled okra.
- **TWO BITES CLUB:** This lunch program gets students to try two bites of a food they've never tried before.

COMMUNITY

- **FAMILY NIGHT:** This community event brings teachers together with parents and their children to learn, play games and socialize.
- **ANNUAL HALLOWEEN EVENT:** During Halloween, school staff set up a haunted house and guide parents and students on a spooky tour.

FIELD TRIPS

- Individual classes plan field trips to enrich the curriculum, such as trips to Old Sacramento, history days and museums.

Empowered to Teach

***Mother wanted education options
for her three children***

by Mike Blount

Michelle Pfingston knew early on that the traditional public school system wouldn't be the best fit for her daughter. Sarah, 11, has dyslexia and requires a lot of hands-on attention that would be harder to get in a larger classroom. Not wanting her daughter to fall behind, Pfingston started looking into education options in Portola and found Long Valley Charter School's Personalized Learning program. The Personalized Learning model was so effective for Sarah that Pfingston now teaches her two other children, 9-year-old Andrew and 7-year-old Alexander, too.

"When I was first learning about Personalized Learning, I was worried about how I was going to teach [Sarah]," Pfingston says. "But as I learned more about the program and started building a relationship with the teachers, I started to feel more confident about it. One of the teachers reached out to me and explained all of the different ways that children could learn. It really was encouraging to me."

Pfingston relied heavily on the teachers and the curriculum the school supplied at first. But after a couple of years, she felt confident enough to help codevelop her own standards-aligned language arts and science curriculum for her children. Pfingston credits the staff at Long Valley Charter School for giving her the support she needed to teach her children at home.

"The teacher we work with has always been so positive and reaffirming," Pfingston says. "She's given me the ability to change something if it wasn't working. I've never felt bowled over and I don't get the sense that I have to do something. That's boosted my confidence a lot."

"I feel like all the staff at our school really enjoy my kids and like seeing them."

Michelle Pfingston
Personalized Learning parent

Pfingston enjoys teaching her three children in the Personalized Learning model through home schooling because she enjoys seeing them succeeding and their confidence grow. Pfingston says she saw an immediate difference with her daughter when she started teaching her at home.

"One of the best things about teaching Sarah using Personalized Learning is that she never got a sense of inferiority," Pfingston says. "She got a sense of confidence because we have been really successful with [the] charter school. She thrives there and that's important to us."

Though Pfingston knows that Personalized Learning isn't an option for all parents, she really recommends it for parents who are able.

"I just really love it and my kids love it," Pfingston says. "Everyone has been so supportive. I feel like all the staff at our school enjoy my kids and like seeing them succeed. That feeling starts with the secretary and goes throughout the whole staff."



Michelle Pfingston chose Long Valley's Personalized Learning program to educate her three children, Alexander, Andrew and Sarah.
PHOTO BY NAOMI CROSBY

MASTERY-BASED LEARNING MEETS STUDENTS WHERE THEY ARE

Long Valley's Personalized Learning programs located in Susanville, Doyle and Portola give transitional K-12 students the targeted education they need.

"Students desire options," says Director Sherri Morgan. "Our Personalized Learning program is all about choices and flexibility for our students."

Curriculum and teaching materials are provided. And Long Valley's experienced faculty can give parents as much assistance as they may need, forming a three-

way partnership between teacher, parent and child.

Students and parents can choose how to split weekdays between working independently outside of school and in resource centers with small groups or one-on-one instruction with a teacher.

"We help students who really want to be in charge of their learning achieve their goals," Morgan says. "We'll meet every child where they are and help them get where they need to go."



Ronette Scarbrough enrolled her son David, who has cerebral palsy, in Long Valley Charter School after he began showing signs of seizures while enrolled in public school. Today, David is thriving as a student and has been off his seizure medication for four years.
PHOTO BY NAOMI CROSBY

INDIVIDUALIZED SUPPORT AND MORE

Long Valley Charter School offers many support and enrichment opportunities for students enrolled in the Personalized Learning programs in Susanville, Portola and Doyle. These opportunities allow students to interact with other students and provide them a chance to engage in hands-on learning. Here are a few examples:

- Enrichment classes are provided by the staff and some outside vendors. These classes are offered both in the resource centers and in the community. Examples of classes include violin, guitar, drama, dance, martial arts and graphic arts.
- A math lab and study hall sessions are available at the resource centers.
- Students in the 10th grade are provided a class for language arts/writing and math to help prepare for the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE).
- Field trips take place throughout the year and offer learning opportunities in multiple subjects.

A Nurturing Environment

Special needs student excels at Long Valley Charter School

by Mike Blount

When David Scarbrough was born, he weighed only 1 pound, 2 ounces. He was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, and his mother, Ronette Scarbrough, was told by doctors that he might never be able to walk without assistance. By age 3, he had been in and out of hospitals for most of his life. Despite these challenges, David was a happy and determined child.

From kindergarten to fifth grade, David was enrolled in a traditional public school. He learned how to walk with a single leg brace, but used a wheelchair most of the time. Though his school had a special needs program, Scarbrough, a single parent, says she felt it was not a good fit for David.

"I wanted my son to have a calm, nurturing environment that he could learn in, and he wasn't getting that there," Scarbrough says. "David began to show signs of having seizures. He wasn't doing very well and was getting worse, so I decided to put him in home hospital care for a while."

Scarbrough began looking for another school for David online and came across Long Valley Charter School's Personalized Learning program in Susanville. When she called the school, she learned it did not have a special day class. A month later, she received a phone call from the resource center.

"[Long Valley's staff] treat David like a person and give him a place he can learn and feel safe. He deserves that."

Ronette Scarbrough
Long Valley parent

"They were a very small school at the time, but they called to tell me they had worked on a program and that they thought they could meet David's needs," Scarbrough says. "As soon as I heard that,

I was ready to sign him up. The fact that they had worked so hard to put a program together meant a lot."

In 2013, David underwent a complex surgery on his legs, which placed him in a double cast from the hip down for several months. It took him more than a year to recover. Scarbrough says Long Valley staff went out of their way to help, including stopping by her home to pick up homework if she couldn't drop it off at the school.

Today, David, 15, is able to walk without using a walker. He's also continuing to meet his academic goals each year. Scarbrough says the support they received from Long Valley has been vital to David's success.

"It's really a wonderful place, whether you have a special needs student or not," Scarbrough says. "[Long Valley's staff] treat David like a person and give him a place he can learn and feel safe. He deserves that."

For more information on support and enrichment opportunities for students enrolled in a Personalized Learning program, visit www.longvalleycs.org or call 530-827-2395.

Discover

What Makes Long Valley Unique

Long Valley Charter School has been meeting the individual needs of students since 2000, building on traditions that have evolved over the Doyle campus' 144-year history.

Now with resource centers in Portola and Susanville, along with the facility in Doyle featuring both traditional classrooms and Personalized Learning options, Long Valley Charter School has expanded its reach to serve approximately 400 students from transitional kindergarten through 12th grade throughout Plumas, Lassen and Sierra counties.

Parents and students collaborate with teachers to choose the educational model that works best for

them. Every student works to meet state standards, but **the path selected to achieve that aim is customized to the pupil's needs and interests.**

Personalized Learning is a hallmark of Long Valley Charter School. So is interpersonal interaction. Faculty and staff develop personal relationships with each student and their family. Additionally, the school retains community relationships by welcoming input and fostering service learning.

Families have choices in education; Long Valley Charter School is all about supporting those choices. **Make the choice to enroll your child at Long Valley Charter School.**



JOIN US!

Contact a location near you today to enroll or find out more.



SUSANVILLE PERSONALIZED LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER (TK-12)

629 Main St.
Susanville, CA 96130
530-257-7300

DOYLE CLASSROOM- BASED PROGRAM (PRE K-8) AND PERSONALIZED LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER (TK-12)

436-965 Susan Drive
P.O. Box 7
Doyle, CA 96109
530-827-2395

PORTOLA PERSONALIZED LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER (TK-12)

280 E. Sierra St. (Hwy. 70)
Portola, CA 96122
530-832-5507

FAQS AND FACTS

WHO CAN ENROLL?

Long Valley Charter School offers public education to transitional-kindergarten through 12th-grade students in Lassen, Plumas, Sierra, Shasta and Modoc counties. There are Personalized Learning and classroom-based programs available.

IS THERE A TUITION FEE?

Despite Long Valley's innovative and personalized education models, the school does not charge for a quality education. As a public charter school, Long Valley's programs are open to all, free of charge.

"People often think [charters] are a private school because of our flexibility and what we're able to do," says Director Sherri Morgan. "But we are a publicly funded, California school."

WHY WAS LONG VALLEY FOUNDED?

The school's founders decided that a flexible education experience better fit the needs of the area's students.

"I used to teach in regular classrooms, responsible for 150 students each day," Morgan says. "I could see that kiddo in the third seat of the fourth row wasn't getting it, and I had no time to help him because

I had the whole group. So the opportunity to individualize allows you to reach every learner."

DO STUDENTS RECEIVE A RIGOROUS EDUCATION?

Long Valley has gone above and beyond to design a curriculum that exceeds requirements.

"We are accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, which means that courses are transferable," Morgan says. "We sought and received accreditation for K-12. We offer a rigorous program and we're not afraid to have others come in and take a close look at us."

WHAT MAKES LONG VALLEY UNIQUE?

Small class sizes and common goals breed a tight-knit community that invites parental involvement.

"There is a strong community feel when you have any event," Morgan says. "We have the opportunities for further involvement [like] membership in site committees, field trip chaperones and volunteering at school. We encourage our parents to become collaborative partners in our school and leaders within our community."