

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of four children, two elementary aged who attend Marion Carson School in the community of Varsity. Marion Carson has been an important part of our family, having been a safe learning environment for all of our children. While the school has been and continues to be a vital part of our community, the existing playground has now expired and there is a need to replace it with an inclusive and accessible playground.

Therefore, I am writing to express my strong support for the initiative to create an inclusive and accessible playground in our community, which will be the first in Varsity. As a parent of a child with a disability, I understand firsthand the profound impact that accessible play spaces have on children's development, socialization, and overall well-being.

As our culture begins to expand and mature our understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion, something as simple as an accessible playground can provide a space where my son no longer watches other children from afar, rather he could join his friends in play. I remember when I was in elementary school in the 80's, we had a classroom for those who were not typical, "special ed", and in my case "room 5". I distinctly recall how separated they were from the rest of the school population, which resulted in isolation. My hope is that we continue to create spaces of inclusion and as we mature our understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion, we find more ways to be a community, rather than cliques.

Play is a fundamental right for every child. It is through play that children develop friendships, vital skills, and express themselves. However, for children with disabilities, many traditional playgrounds present significant barriers, limiting their ability to engage in this essential activity. An inclusive playground allows all children, regardless of their abilities, to explore, interact, and enjoy the simple joy of play together.

By investing in an accessible playground, we foster an environment where every child feels valued and included. It promotes diversity, empathy, and understanding among children of different abilities, helping to break down social barriers and build stronger, more inclusive communities.

Inclusive play spaces are beneficial not only for children with disabilities but also for their peers. They encourage teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving, offering opportunities for all children to learn from one another in a safe and supportive environment.

As a family who intends to stay connected and involved not only in Marion Carson School, but the community of Varsity, we would love our dream of an inclusive and accessible playground where our children of all abilities can play become a reality. Please consider supporting Marion Carson School and let's make dreams come true.

Sincerely,
Eric Oh