



Our School: Searching for Community in the Era of Choice

Sam Chaltain

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"This is an important book. *Our School* is vibrant and alive. Sam Chaltain's keen insights and warm, readable prose invite readers to experience the complex, challenging, often frustrating, and occasionally triumphant lives of four caring teachers and their students. I urge you to accept the invitation."

--John Merrow, education correspondent, PBS NewsHour, and president, Learning Matters, Inc.

"What *Our School* shows with passion and precision is that education is about real people leading real lives in real places. If school doesn't engage them, it doesn t work, no matter what the accountants and policymakers may say. That's what this book is really about and why it's so important for anyone who genuinely cares about schools, communities, and their children."

--From the Foreword by Sir Ken Robinson, world-renowned author and educator

Almost every major American city is experimenting with school choice--a deeply controversial idea that is dramatically reshaping public education. Will the wider array of school options help parents and educators identify better strategies for helping all children learn? Or will the high stakes of the marketplace end up privatizing this most public of institutions? Education activist Sam Chaltain believes that before we can answer these questions, we must put a human face on the modern landscape of teaching and learning. *Our School* documents a year in the life of two schools in the nation's capital--one a new charter school just opening its doors, the other a neighborhood school that first opened in 1924. Chaltain weaves together the observations and emotions of the people whose lives intersect there, and the triumphs and the challenges they experience. The result is an unsettling, complex portrayal of American public education. *Our School* is important reading for educational policymakers, administrators, parents, the media, and anyone who aspires to be a teacher.

Book Features:

- * Specific recommendations for creating a healthy, high-functioning school.
- * A detailed account of what school choice actually looks and feels like to the people who experience it.
- * A vivid description of the modern classroom and what it's really like to teach in public school.
- * An important focus on the humanity of teachers (their personal histories, their reasons for entering the profession, their day-to-day challenges).
- * An intimate look at the inner lives of children (their biggest fears and needs, their moments of triumph and understanding).



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From reader reviews:

Chris Gibbons:

In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in each way. By being competitive today, people have do something to make these individuals survives, being in the middle of often the crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated the idea for a while is reading. Yeah, by reading a book your ability to survive increase then having chance to endure than other is high. For yourself who want to start reading a book, we give you that Our School: Searching for Community in the Era of Choice book as basic and daily reading book. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

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