

HOPE Charter School



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WHAT IS A CHARTER SCHOOL?

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Charter schools are nonsecular public schools of choice that operate with freedom from many of the regulations that apply to traditional public schools. The "charter" establishing each such school is a performance contract detailing the school's mission, program, goals, students served, methods of assessment, and ways to measure success. The length of time for which char-

ters are granted varies, but most are granted for 3-5 years. At the end of the term, the entity granting the charter may renew the school's contract. Charter schools are accountable to their sponsor-- usually a state or local school board-- to produce positive academic results and adhere to the charter contract. The basic concept of charter schools is that they exercise increased autonomy in return for this ac-

countability. They are accountable for both academic results and fiscal practices. For more information on charter schools in general, consult the web site for Orange County Public Schools (<http://www.ocps.k12.fl.us/>). Hope Charter School is funded through Orange County and school fundraising activities. It is not affiliated with any religious organization.

WHAT ARE HOPE'S ACADEMICS?

Hope Charter School is a K-8 school in which brain-based techniques are used, following Kagan, Allen and Conyers training. ESE students represent 15-20% of the population, giving opportunity for Asperger and high-functioning autistic students to participate in the regular classroom with their typical-student peers. Hope Charter School requires adherence to class size amendment numbers at the classroom level with a teacher and an aide in all K-6 classrooms. In addition to

standard academics which utilize the SRA Reading Program from McGraw Hill and Saxon Math, each class participates in P.E., Brain Power, music and art. Brain Power is a program that promotes and utilizes the interaction of the entire brain with physical activity. Benchmark reports are issued quarterly along with a teacher's narrative report for each student.

Meetings with teachers can be

scheduled by sending in a note to the teacher, calling the office to request a return call from the teacher, or emailing the teacher.

Teachers make every effort to keep parents informed and to work with students to help each individual reach his or her potential. Parents may be asked to sign memos to indicate their child has completed the assigned homework.

The School Board of Orange County, Florida, does not discriminate in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, marital status, disability or any other reason prohibited by law.

WHAT IS HOPE'S ENROLLMENT PROCESS?

The **Enrollment Process** is governed by state requirements. A Kindergarten student must turn 5 before September 1 of the year he/she is entering school. Registrations for the up-coming school year can be accepted only during or after the current Open Enrollment. Open Enrollment is held each year from March 1 through March 7. It is not a first-come/first-served enrollment. At the end of Open Enrollment, if more registration forms are received than there are openings in a class, all the registrations will be placed in a lottery. Every registration will be chosen and given a lottery number. After the open positions are filled, the remaining registrations will be placed on a waiting list in the order in which they were chosen through the lottery. When an opening occurs, the school will contact the first person on the waiting list. If that person does not accept the position, the school will continue to contact those on the waiting list until the position is filled. After Open Enrollment, registration forms will be placed at the bottom of the waiting list as they are received. This enrollment process must be repeated each year. If the school is unable to accept someone on the waiting list for one year, that person must re-apply for the next year. Waiting lists do not carry over from one year to another.

When an applicant is offered a position, parents will be asked to meet with the Director to learn about the school's policies and be able to ask whatever questions they might have. Also, we want parents to understand the commitment which they are being asked to make in accepting the position. Unfortunately, we do not have the personnel available to offer individual tours to anyone unless we have an opening to offer them.

DO YOU HAVE ... ?

Outside School Activities and **Field Trips** are scheduled to enhance the current area of study. While some of these are free of charge, others do require a fee. For example: a field trip to the public library or the local fire station is free while a field trip to the Science Center requires a fee.

Students at Hope Charter School are required to wear **Uniforms**. These uniforms consist of embroidered T-shirts and polos with slacks, shorts, skirts or skorts. Our supplier of embroidered tops is Photograph-X in Ocoee. They also offer embroidered sweaters, sweatshirts and jackets, in approved colors, for cooler weather. During the year, Hope may authorize a commemorative T-shirt through Photograph-X that may be worn in place of the pull-over shirt. A detailed uniform guide is given to families after enrollment.

Hope Charter School follows a **Healthy Eating Plan**. Lunches and snacks cannot contain cookies, candy, cake, soft drinks, etc. The basic guideline is that sugar cannot be among the first 3 ingredients in a product. In addition to a lunch and a snack, each student must bring a water bottle every day. The school does have a lunch program through a caterer.

Regular **School Hours** are from 8:30 a.m. to

3:00 p.m. for K-4th; 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for 5th-6th; 7:30 a.m. to 2:31 p.m. for 7th-8th. There is no early dismissal on Wednesdays. Students are dropped off and picked up through a Car Circle system. Parents must sign-in late arriving students and sign-out early departing students. This is done through the office.

An **Extended Day Program** is offered for the convenience of those parents who are unable to drop-off or pick-up at school times. Before-care begins at 7:00 a.m. and after-care extends until 6:00 p.m. The cost for extended day is charged on a weekly basis, regardless of the number of days used, and is payable in advance. Payment is due each Monday for that current week. Cost for the current school year is available at Meet-The-Teacher in August. If a student is picked up after 6:00 p.m., the cost is \$1.00 per minute per student payable to the staff at the time of pick up. Students who arrive before 8:00 a.m. must be signed-in to before-care. Students who are not picked up by the end of dismissal will be placed in after-care and payment will be due.

As needed, **Alerts** will be sent to parents via email, telephone or text (as determined when the parent signs up for the alert system) to discuss important issues and upcoming events at the school.

WHAT IS A "SCHOOL OF CHOICE" ?

Parent commitment is not only necessary but is a requirement as part of our charter. In addition to agreeing to follow the policies of Hope Charter School, parents are required to attend monthly parent meetings (held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.), and volunteer 20 hours per year or donate supplies to the school to receive 1 hour volunteer credit for every \$10.00 value. Parent support of school policies is considered essential to student success. Because this school is much more a partnership, it is important that your choice includes the desire to be committed to Hope, as the staff is committed to you and your child. You are the only one who can decide what is best for your child. OCPS is required to provide free appropriate public education for every student, and your child is assigned to a school that is available to him/her. Hope Charter School is a School of Choice.

A registration form for each student must be completed and submitted to Hope Charter School to begin the enrollment process.