

EVERGREEN



Community Charter School



Where Learning is an Adventure!

SNAPSHOT 2011-2012

Evergreen Community Charter School is a learning community committed to the pursuit of excellence in the holistic education of the mind, body, and spirit. We prepare students for lifelong learning, environmental responsibility and service. We value the voice of every member of our community.

CORE BELIEFS OF EVERGREEN COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL



Evergreen Community Charter School is an innovative educational endeavor developed and operated collaboratively by educators, parents, students and the larger community. Our learning community is inspired by a love of children and a commitment to the greater good, both of which inform our decisions and our practice. As a school community, we share the following beliefs about teaching and learning:

We believe that the Evergreen Community should...

- Embrace diversity as it supports children and other members in discovering their inherent self-worth and developing their individual gifts;
- Inspire students to be self-directed learners, with the ability and desire to follow paths of inquiry, seek knowledge and understanding, think critically, communicate effectively, and act creatively and responsibly;
- Foster understanding of, respect for, and responsibility toward the natural world;
- Encourage students to take risks in setting and achieving goals, to strive for their personal best, and to make healthy choices;
- Nurture the development of caring and compassionate community members through self-reflection, service to others, relationship building, and collaboration;
- Provide a safe environment and small learning groups that invite children to become integral members of the classroom, where caring adults and peer mentors help to ensure the progress of each child;
- Challenge students to make meaningful connections and grasp the big picture through a hands-on, project-based, integrated curriculum that fosters motivation and responsibility for learning.



UNIQUE PROGRAMS

In 2009, Evergreen earned SACS CASI accreditation. We received the designation of Honor School of Excellence for the 2nd year in a row in the 2010-2011 school year by making higher than expected growth and having 95% of our students score proficient or about on the state mandated End-of-Grade tests.

Expeditionary Learning School (ELS), Outward Bound

In 2001, Evergreen adopted the Expeditionary Learning School design model because it so closely matches our community's core beliefs and philosophy of teaching and learning. This school reform model, developed by Outward Bound, challenges teachers and students to make learning relevant and to gain knowledge and understanding based on their first-hand experiences. Teachers and students plan "learning expeditions" with compelling themes and guiding questions. All subject areas are then woven throughout the expedition including language arts, math, science, social studies, environmental/outdoor education, the arts, movement, and technology. Students are actively involved in learning, and they are encouraged to take ownership of the learning process and the production of high-quality work.

Small Class Sizes and Highly Qualified Teachers

Evergreen has one of the lowest teacher-to-student ratios in Western NC. Each student interacts with a lead and an associate teacher and enrichment specialists. All of our lead teachers are considered "highly qualified" by state standards; 43% have advanced degrees and three are Nationally Board Certified. We attract teachers who are passionate about our learning model.

Fieldwork and Service Learning

Hands-on experiences, fieldwork, and service are central to the Evergreen philosophy and mission. Students take trips regularly to engage in fieldwork, and we typically log over 200 field experiences each year.

Positive Discipline

We use the "Positive Discipline" model of character development. Natural and logical consequences help children take responsibility for their actions. (www.positivediscipline.com)

Assessment

Evergreen uses a combination of traditional and performance assessments to provide students and parents with regular feedback about their progress. At all grade levels, students compile their work in portfolios and share them with parents at twice yearly conferences. Progress reports which include a narrative and a rubric are issued three times a year. These score the student's achievement and character development. Twice a year students in grades 2-8 take computerized diagnostic tests to measure growth in reading, math and language use. End-of-grade tests are given as required by NC Department of Public Instruction..

The Partnership Agreement

Every Evergreen family signs a partnership agreement committing them to volunteer hours: 4 hours a month for a two-parent family and 2 hours a month for a one-parent family. Parent involvement is essential for the success of each child and the school.

Environmental Education

Environmental education is woven throughout Evergreen's curriculum. Our students participate in waste-free lunch initiatives, a school-wide recycling program, a Cold-Water Aquaculture Program, and they study alternative sources of energy. Our campus has a weather station, solar panels, bio-diesel fuel tank for our bus, and rain gardens in our parking lot to clean the stormwater run-off. Evergreen hosts Girls in Research, Invention, Technology and Science (GRITS) and The American Adventure Service Corps (TAASC).

Adventure Program

Outward Bound's emphasis on the value of outdoor adventures influences Evergreen's educational philosophy. Rock climbing begins in the first grade and culminates with the pinnacle Outward Bound experience in the eighth grade. More than 200 students participate in overnight wilderness outings each year. Other activities include bicycling, backpacking, rock and wall-climbing, camping, skiing, canoeing, whitewater rafting and snowboarding.

Embe Marimba Band

The Embe Marimba Band is the only school marimba band in the region. Students in the elementary school begin learning skills, to prepare to join the band in middle school. Community performances include Black Mountain's LEAF Festival and Asheville Bravo Concert's Art in the Garden.



Our History

In 1998, Maureen Motley called a meeting of parents and educators to discuss a community-based charter school that was committed to hands-on learning and significant parent involvement. Dori Drachman, Lisa Garrett, Robbie Spiegel, and Maureen Motley spent the summer of 1998 working on the charter application. The North Carolina State Board of Education approved the application in February of 1999. With the help of parents Eleanor Ashton and Bob Williams, Evergreen opened its doors to 204 students that fall. In the fall of 2003, the school was relocated to the Haw Creek Community and Jackie Williams, Ed.D became Ex. Director and served until 2007. Evergreen's current Executive Director is Susan Gottfried, Ph.D. The school serves 408 students.

Our Vision

Working in partnership with parents, elders and the community, Evergreen Community Charter School offers an academically challenging, developmentally appropriate, experiential, holistic, child-centered education to all young people. We nurture a passion for learning that lasts a lifetime as we challenge our community to discover their individual gifts, to honor their inner worth, to strive for excellence, to pursue respectful ethical relationships with themselves and others and to find their own path of service.

Differentiated Instruction To Meet The Needs Of All Learners

We customize instruction to meet the needs of all learners. Evergreen strives to challenge every child and support students with a wide range of talents, interests, and learning profiles. The EL design engages students in open-ended explorations which incorporate choice, innovation and critical thinking.

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EVERGREENCCS.ORG

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ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Evergreen is governed by a Board of Directors that is made up of community members, parents and teachers.

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| Board of Directors President | Danielle Moser |
| Executive Director | Susan Gottfried, Ph.D |
| Associate Director for 5-8 | Jason Carter |
| Associate Director for K-4 | Cameron Brantley |
| Director of Development & Communications | Eleanor Ashton |
| Director of Special Services | Kathy Norris, M.Ed |
| Director of Student Services | Robin Elliott |
| Business & Facilities Manager | Bob Oakes |