

State Board of Education Approves Charter Schools

Thursday, 10 June 2010

On June 10, 2010, the State Board of Education approved four additional charter schools for Hall County, bringing the total number of charter schools in the system to seven. Chestatee Middle School, Martin Elementary School, McEver Elementary School, and Wauka Mountain Elementary School are now officially charter schools.

Chestatee Academy of Inquiry and Talent Development (CAITD) builds on the Renzulli Triad Model. Structuring experiences for middle grades learners, CAITD develops interest clusters for students in which the regular curriculum comes alive through authentic engagement. Project SOAR (Seeking Out Authentic Relationships) clusters students into multi-age groups that are pursuing a common area of interest. Learning academies are formed around these clusters and students produce evidence of curricular learning via projects based on their interest clusters. For more information about this school, contact Suzanne Jarrard, principal.

Martin Technology Academy of Math and Science will open as a K-5 charter school in partnership with the Dell Corporation. In development for two years, the school will open the world of high technology to students using a wireless cloud environment. Student engagement will be enhanced by personal responders, smart boards, and slates enhancing a curriculum that emphasizes the areas of mathematics, science, and engineering. Using the inquiry approach, students will utilize notebook computers to plan science experiments, collect data, write reports, and conceptualize products of learning. The inquiry process will be guided by the 5E approach: Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, and Evaluate. The deep design of the school is to propel students into a 21st Century learning environment. For more information about this school, contact Tamara Etterling, principal.

McEver Arts Academy is an arts integration model built on the concept of Artful Learning developed by the Leonard Bernstein family subsequent to his death. This model develops students' capacities for creativity, inquiry, reflective thinking, self-esteem, and love of learning. The state curriculum is articulated through a series of lessons and units developed through the Character through the Arts grant. Students are engaged in learning through the arts of dance, music, movement, drama, and visual art, and their products of learning are displayed through these art forms. Learning will engage students in real life experiences which emphasizes the aesthetic nature of mankind. For more information about this school, contact Dr. Catherine Rosa, principal.

Wauka Mountain Multiple Intelligences Academy, another K-5 school, is built on the foundation of Howard Gardner's research on multiple intelligences. Recognizing that students' interests span a broad spectrum, the academy will focus on matching students with their dominant intelligence identified by Gardner. These intelligences are verbal/linguistic (word smart), logical/mathematical (math smart), musical (musical smart), visual (art smart), kinesthetic (body smart), interpersonal (people smart), intrapersonal (self smart), and naturalist (nature smart). Students will be exposed to a deeper understanding of the rigorous curriculum required by the state using strategies that relate to their dominant ways of thinking and learning. The Multiple Intelligences model will personalize the education of students and seek to build life-long learners. For more information about this school, contact Dr. Jo Dinnan, principal.

Congratulations to these charter schools which join our already existing charter schools- World Language Academy at Chestnut Mountain, Lanier Charter Career Academy, and Sardis Enrichment School.

William Schofield, Superintendent

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