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# Prospective Families

## Information Session

— The Exploris School —

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# Agenda

- Overview of Exploris
- Q & A

# Mission



The Exploris School is a diverse learning community that engages students in a challenging, relevant, relationship-based education. Through experiential, project-based learning we empower students to foster a just and sustainable world.

# Vision

Empowering learners to  
improve our world

We believe that students do not have to wait until adulthood to make change; all students regardless of age can be solving real-world issues in age-appropriate ways.

# Core Values



[The Mission](#)

[What I Like About Exploris](#)

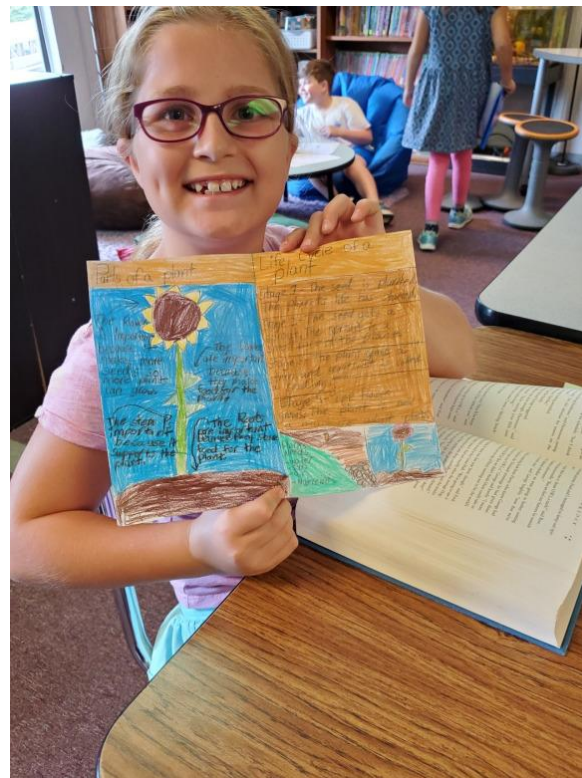
# Who are we?

- We merge elements from many different approaches.
- For example:
  - Project Based Learning
  - Global Education
  - Responsive Classroom
  - Service Learning
  - Restorative Justice



# Who are we: Key Elements

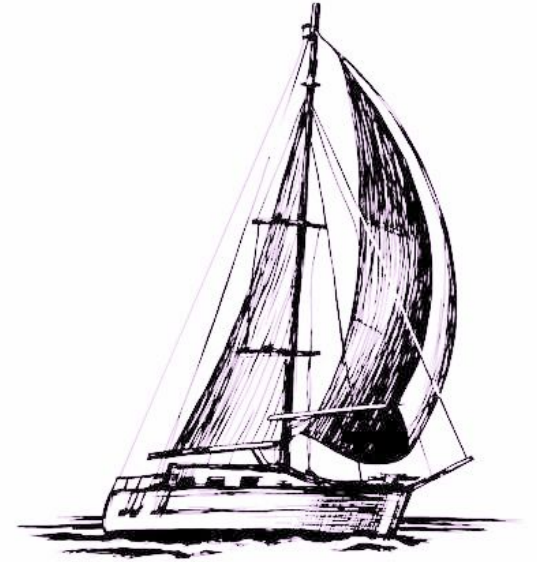
- Collaborative and interdisciplinary
- Connectedness of the world
- Frequent field experiences, including overnights and regular walking trips
- Experiential and change-oriented
- Relationships to self, others, and the world
- Social-Emotional & Academic skills equally important
- Aligned with NC standards





# What Does it Mean to be a Public Charter School?

- Funding Differences
- Our Own School District
- Our Own Calendar
  - Still meet all state attendance reqs.
  - Calendar similar to WCPSS
- Follow state standards and EOG testing
- Flexibility in curriculum, hiring, governanc





# Food

- No cafeteria
- Scholars bring lunch
- Support for F&R families
- Option to order a lunch to be delivered
- No sweets or soda, please
- Waste-free Lunch

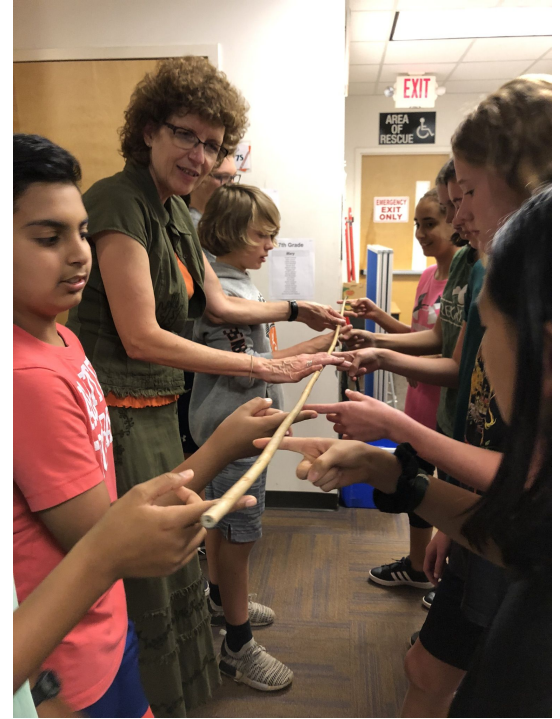


# Facilities

- Currently in rented facilities on two campuses, 1 mile apart
- Plan is to have a new K-8 building sometime in the next 5 years
- Currently looking at properties within 1-3 miles of our current locations and in active negotiations
- Goal is to make a final decision ASAP

# Transportation

- No buses
- PTO assists with setting up carpools
- Carpool line is fast & easy
- Students walk when possible
- Parent drivers will be needed for some field experiences
  - Insurance and license on file
  - Signed forms on file



# Atmosphere

- High sensory; lots of stimulation
- Flexible, responsive lessons
- Loud, boisterous, active, social classrooms
- Outside time whenever possible; daily at lunch/recess and often for class activities, too
- Frequent transitions, lots of movement and interaction with multiple educators
- Co-teaching model with lots of collaborative group work
- Responsive Classroom model = relationships and community are cornerstones

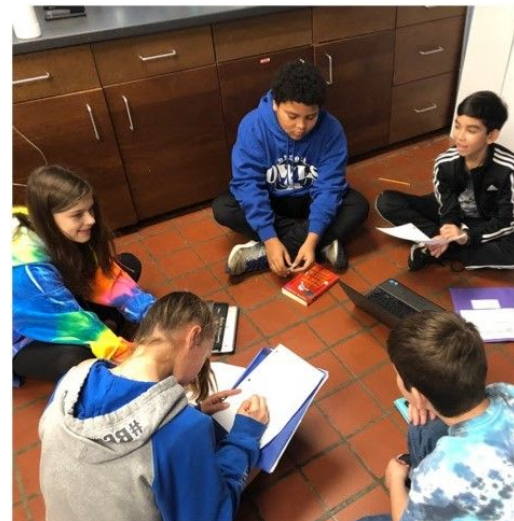
# EC & Intervention Services

- We honor all IEPs and 504s
- We employ certified EC teachers as case managers and service providers, as well as EC teaching partners
- We contract with school psychologists, occupational and speech therapists, and other service providers as necessary
- We monitor scholars who are struggling and employ the MTSS process to see if specially designed instruction, accommodation, and/or modifications may be needed
- Please carefully consider our environment and your student's individual needs and learning style. We have found the co-teaching and expedition model, along with our downtown setting, to be challenging for some learners

# Assessment: Standards Based Grading

Planning, instruction, and assessment focused on mastery of North Carolina Standard Course of Study

- Indicates progress on specific learning objectives rather than calculating averages
- Allows for an opportunity to circle back throughout the year
- Not a “one and done”
- Mastery often not accomplished until the end of the year



# Student-led Portfolios

- 3 times a year, our scholars create a presentation for their families, teachers, and invited guests
- They choose work product examples to show their progress towards specific academic goals
- This gives students agency and ownership in their own academic progress
- In 8th grade, Passage Portfolio is given to a board of community representatives, past & present teachers, and family members



# The Scholar's Day

- Crew
- Core Instruction in Language Arts, mapped closely to NC Standard Course of Study
- Core Instruction in Math, mapped closely to NC Standard Course of Study
- Expedition: Project Based cross-curriculum learning focused around science and social studies standards
- Global Arts
- Lunch and Recess
- FRIDAYS: Explorations and Service-Learning Projects

# Crew

- Provides each student with a smaller core community and one adult for a closer relationship (1:19 for grades 2-8)
- Meets daily
- Builds
  - Relationships and Social Emotional Learning
  - Group cohesion
  - School and grade level norms
- Student oriented and often student directed



# Global Arts

<b>Elementary</b>	<b>Middle</b>
Art Movement Connected World Music	Art Wellness Connected World Enrichment & Intervention

# Middle School: Our Math Courses

- **6th, 7th, or 8th grade math** - Students study the NC Essential Standards. Opportunities for above grade level enrichment and below grade level support
- **Math 1** - High school course that requires a move of 1-2 grade levels up. First available for 7th graders
- **Math 2** - High school course for 8th graders who completed Math 1 in 7th grade.

# Explorations & Service-Learning Projects

- 4-6-week sessions per trimester on Fridays
- Every student participates in Service-Learning and Explorations
- Examples of Service-Learning Projects Classes: *Digital Photography, Bike Raleigh, Dance, Cooking Matters, Swimming, Creative Writing, Model UN, Basketball, Board Games, Movie Lovers, Outdoor Games, Drama, Touch Rugby, String Players, Sewing, etc*
- Anyone can lead an Exploration on anything!

# What makes Exploris different?



- **Connections to Nature**
- **Community Impact**
- **Mastery-based grading**
- **Co-teaching model**
- **Global Partnerships**
- **And so much more!**



# Communicating With Exploris

- School Website [www.Exploris.org](http://www.Exploris.org)
- Official social media channels: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter
- Lottery & Enrollment Questions: [The\\_Exploris\\_School@lotterease.com](mailto:The_Exploris_School@lotterease.com)
- Other Questions: [info@exploris.org](mailto:info@exploris.org)



# Interested? Here Are Your Next Steps

- Go to [www.exploris.org](http://www.exploris.org) and click on the “Apply” tab
- That will take you to our application page
  - You’ll create an account in Lotterease
  - There’s an FAQ document linked on the page
- **Apply by the deadline!** Midnight on Friday, February 3rd, 2023.  
Applications submitted after this deadline will be placed on the waiting list in the order they are received
- The lottery will be held on Friday, March 3rd, 2023. Results will be posted on your Lotterease account immediately and you’ll receive an email. If you are placed on the waitlist, you can also track your position as seats are accepted or declined.