
Prospective Families

Information Session

— The Exploris School —

Agenda

- Overview of Exploris
- Q & A

Please type questions into chat and we will answer as many as possible at the end

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, right now!

Core Values



[The Mission](#)

[What I Like About Exploris](#)

Equity Statement

Exploris is founded on strong connections, whether around the world or around the block. We prepare our scholars to thrive in a multicultural society and become leaders in fostering a just and sustainable world. At Exploris we do not discriminate on factors that have historically been barriers to success, such as race, ability, gender, sexuality, or socio-economics. We welcome all styles of learners and all styles of families, and we know we are enriched by the distinct perspectives of each member of our community. At Exploris, Global Education means striving for our school to become a better reflection of the rich diversity of our world.

[The Mission](#)

[What I Like About Exploris](#)

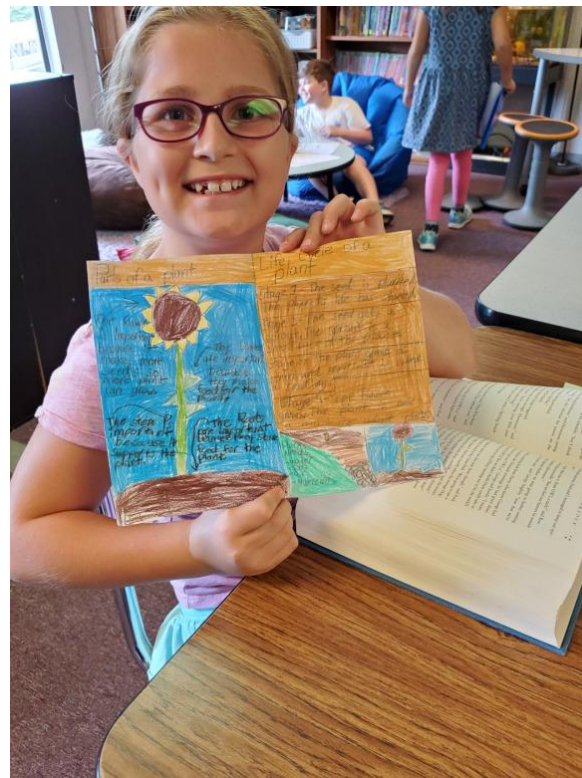
Who are we?

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



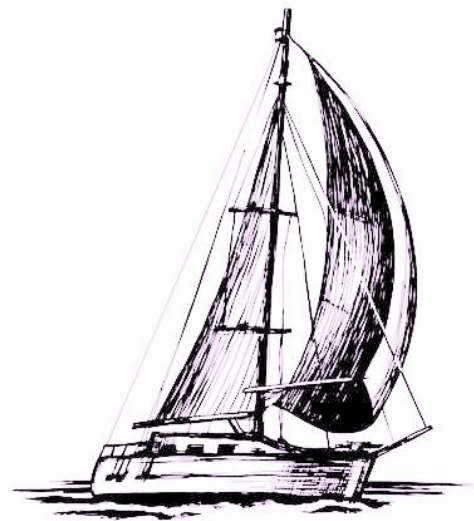
Who are we: Key Elements

- 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, governance



Food

- No cafeteria
- Students 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 in Downtown Raleigh.
- Plan is to have a new K-8 building in the next 3 years.
- We are building on Kindley Street, near Memorial Auditorium.
- We have selected our architect and general contractor, and are well into the permitting process, with hopes to break ground next year.
- We are launching a Capital Campaign and applying for bond financing.

Transportation

- No buses or transportation provided
- 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

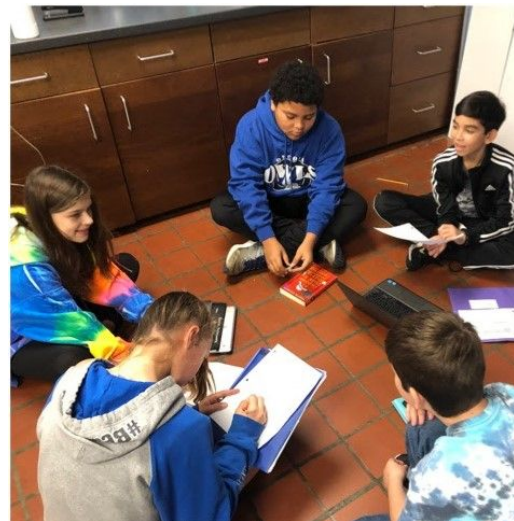
- We honor all IEPs and 504s
- We employ certified EC teachers as case managers and service providers, as well as EC teaching partners
- We contract with school psychologists, occupational and speech therapists, and other service providers as necessary
- We monitor scholars who are struggling and employ 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
- We are a small school with limited resources; please carefully consider whether we are a good option for your learner



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

- 2-3 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 Student's Day

- Crew/Morning Meeting
- Core Instruction in Language Arts, mapped closely to NC Standard Course of Study
 - Literacy focus in younger grades
 - Humanities approach in higher grades
- 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: Service Learning & Explorations (more on those in a moment!)



Crew and Morning Meeting

- 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

Elementary	Middle
Art Music Movement Connected World	Art Wellness Enrichment & Intervention Connected World

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

- Each Friday includes academics, service learning, and Explorations
- Explorations are short mini-courses like *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!

Clubs & Extracurriculars

- These change each year depending on student interest and adult advisors
- Past opportunities have included Science Olympiad, Bridge Building, Future Cities, Lego Club, Magic the Gathering, Student Ambassadors, Peer Advisors, Step Team, Museum Docents, and Drama Club
- We have no formal sports program, but offer competitive and club level activities like Girls on the Run, Cross Country, Aikido, and Ultimate Frisbee



What makes Exploris different?



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



Communicating With Exploris

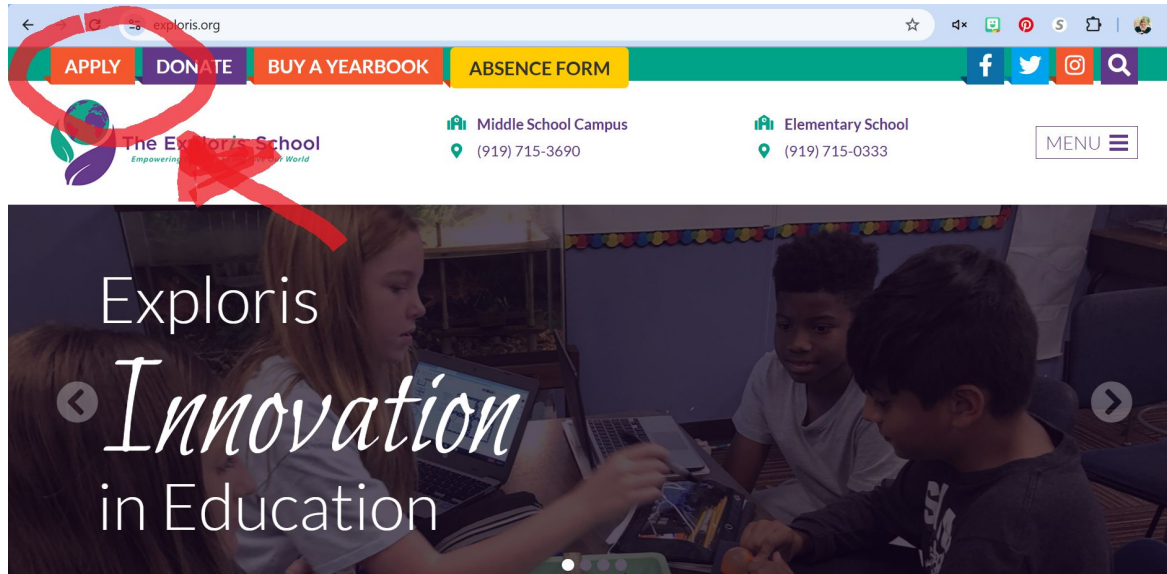
- School Website www.Exploris.org
- Official social media channels: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter
- Lottery & Enrollment Questions: The_Exploris_School@lotterease.com
- Other Questions: info@exploris.org

Interested? Here Are Your Next Steps

- **Take a tour!** Information is on our Admissions page on the website at [THIS LINK](https://exploris.org/admissions/admissions) (https://exploris.org/admissions/admissions)
- Tours are offered every week at 9:00 am
 - Wednesdays at the Middle School
 - Thursdays at the Elementary School
- Tours are led by our student ambassadors and will take about a half hour
- Tours are VERY important so you can see our program in action and gauge the environment for your learner

Apply online!

- Go to www.exploris.org and click on the “Apply” tab
- You’ll create an account in Lotterease
- There’s an FAQ document linked on the page



Apply by the deadline!

- Midnight on **Friday, February 6th, 2026.**
- 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 6th, 2026. 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.
- After the lottery, admissions are rolling, and you will have limited time to accept or decline, so keep an eye throughout the summer and be ready if you are offered a seat!



**Thank you
for
attending!**

Exploris 8th Graders & Guides on Outward Bound