

New Jersey Department of Education
Office of Vocational-Technical, Career
and Innovative Programs
Operational Charter Schools

2005-2006

Information Booklet



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Kim,

Thank you for your support, creativity, diligence and industry in seeing this project through to fruition. In large measure, because of your persistence and patience, we now have our second charter school profile publication.

Rochelle Hendricks, Director
Office of Vocational-Technical, Career and Innovative Programs

The information about each of the charter schools presented in this compilation was prepared by staff from the respective charter school and does not reflect the official views and policies of the New Jersey Department of Education.

March 2006

COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

The staff in the Office of Vocational-Technical, Career and Innovative Programs shares a common belief in the value of giving families quality public school choice. Our team has done the following:

- Introduced new initiatives to enhance communications, coherency and collaboration;
- Revised standard practices and policies to promote standardization and streamlining;
- Expanded our individual responsibilities to meet emerging needs and improve the delivery of services to schools, as well as provide oversight;
- Strengthened and/or formalized internal and external relationships to facilitate efficiency and effectiveness;
- Increased the grant funds available for charter school start-up, planning and dissemination; and
- Revamped application and accountability efforts to foster public trust in New Jersey's charter schools.

It is our intent to authorize charter schools that will improve the lives of the students, families and educators, while also having a positive influence on the local community. As the authorizing agency, through broad oversight and technical assistance, we monitor charter schools for compliance with laws and regulations. We visit the schools, work with others on their behalf, advocate for resources to position them for success and review our own policies and practices for continuous improvement. We attempt to implement our responsibilities diligently and consistently to ensure that the children and families served by charter schools have access to educational excellence and equity.

We thank the staff members of the Office of School Funding/Charter Schools, the county offices of education, and the regional offices for their support and cooperation. Your contributions to the New Jersey charter schools program are invaluable to all who are concerned about children and public school choice.

We salute the charter school founders and operators for their ingenuity, commitment and determination. Thank you for embracing both the excitement of starting a charter school and the challenges of making it work.

We appreciate the children and families who are pioneers in this new public school frontier, and we value the chance to serve you.

Rochelle Hendricks, Director
Office of Vocational-Technical, Career and Innovative Programs

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The following schools are scheduled to open in the 2006-07 school year:

- Benchmark Academy Charter High School
- Central Jersey Arts Charter School
- Central Jersey Charter School
- University Heights Charter School

The following schools are scheduled to open in the 2007-08 school year:

- Adelaide L. Sanford Charter School
- Bergen Arts and Science Charter School
- Foundation Academy Charter School
- TLC Charter School

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Academy Charter High School

1725 Main Street

South Belmar, New Jersey 07719

732-681-8377

Fax 732-681-8375

www.academycharterhs.org

COUNTY:	Monmouth
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Allenhurst, Asbury Park, Avon, Belmar, Bradley Beach, Deal, Interlaken, South Belmar
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Mrs. Frankie Winrow
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Ms. Mary Jo Kapalko
POPULATION SERVED:	Grades 9 to 12
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1998
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1998

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

As a child centered school, Academy Charter High School is dedicated to providing a challenging, nurturing environment in which each child's social and academic potential is maximized. Our graduates are not only academically competitive, but they also possess the self-esteem, self-discipline, intellectual curiosity, and critical thinking skills necessary to maintain their status as life-long learners.

Graduates of ACHS have continued their studies at numerous colleges and universities both in and out of state. ACHS tracks their success in their post-graduate studies. Special education students are provided the instructional and support programs as described in their IEPs. This may include mainstreaming, pull-out replacement, resource room and/or inclusion. The following innovative programs enhance the quality of instruction and academic successes of our students: Mastery Based Learning, Interdisciplinary Instruction, Intensive Remedial Focus, Mentoring, Integrated Service Learning, Fast Start at Brookdale Community College, Work Internships, Partnership for Success, a focus on Technology Focus and an extended school day and year.

Indicators point that the students of ACHS are succeeding academically, emotionally and socially as expressed in the goals and objectives of the charter. ACHS outscored both the local district and the DFG on the HSPA. Academy Charter High School was recognized as a 2003 Just For The Kids – New Jersey Benchmark School by the Business Coalition for Educational Excellence at the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce.

The ACHS community is active in the community at large. Through service learning projects, work internships, Career Day and Partnership for Success activities over 50 community based organizations and businesses worked with the staff and students of ACHS. Academy Charter High School has also been recognized as a New Jersey Service Learning Leader School Semi-Finalist. Parents are active in many aspects of school life. Three of our parents serve on the Board of Trustees.

After school, students may be found participating on one of our interscholastic sports teams, meeting with one of the several clubs or getting help from a teacher in the homework center. There are always opportunities for students to reach for the stars.

Directions to Academy Charter High School

From the North:

Take the Garden State Parkway to Exit 98 – (Route 34 Belmar). Follow signs for Route 138 East. See Below

From the South:

Take the Garden State Parkway to Exit 98 – Belmar. Immediately get to the right and follow signs for Route 138 East. See Below.

From the West:

Take Route 138 East. Follow signs for Route 35 south – Sea Girt. Take Route 35 South to the first traffic light. At that light, turn left on Eighteenth Avenue. Follow the second traffic light (exactly 1-mile) and turn left on Main Street. Immediately turn left onto the parking lot.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Camden Academy Charter High School

879 Beideman Avenue
Camden, New Jersey 08105
856-365-1000 ext. 200
Fax 856-365-1005

camdenspromise@aol.com

www.cpcs.k12.nj.us

COUNTY:	Camden
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Camden
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Ms. Louetta Rossi
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Dr. Joseph Conway
POPULATION SERVED:	Grades 9 to 12
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 2000
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	2001

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of Camden Academy Charter High School is to provide high school age students in the City of Camden, where drop-out rates are typically 50% or higher annually, with a successful education experience. The school will do so by promoting interest within an individual's own education and a platform for societal participation.

Camden Academy Charter High School curriculum will be anchored by the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and will be delivered in a collegiate Academy style. The Academy will consist of two academies within the school, an Academy of Business and an Academy of Science. Individual tracks within the schools will be dynamic to meet the needs of continual incoming classes. A rigorous graduation rubric will be maintained in which all students must complete a major study within one school as well as a senior research project.

A strong focus will be placed on guidance programs. The school will maintain a close-knit relationship with students to aid them in all facets of school and personal matters: academic, social and psychological. Camden Academy Charter High School will maintain a dynamic learning community environment in which all constituents, students, families, faculty, higher education, and the community are encouraged to participate and are challenged to continually take ownership of the overall educational process.

Directions to Camden Academy Charter High School

From New Jersey Turnpike (North or South):

- Turn off at Exit 4. After toll booths proceed on Route 73 North, approximately one mile to route 38 West.
- Route 38 will merge with Route 30.
- Proceed on Route 30 West for approximately one mile where the road forks.
- Take the right fork marked "Local Traffic Only, Last Exit Before Toll".
- Continue straight ahead to Seventh Street and turn left onto Federal Street.

- Follow Federal Street cross over bridge, make left at light (River Road).
- Take River Road to 31st Street and make a right.
- Go down one block and through stop sign.
- Camden Academy Charter High School is on the left corner, make left into parking lot.
- Proceed to front door at top of the stairs.
- Secretary's office will be through front door.

From Route 295 (North or South):

Southbound – Coming from North

- Turn off at Route 38 West Exit at Moorestown (Follow directions above from Route 38).

Northbound – Coming from the south

- Turn off at exit for North-South Freeway (Route 42).
- Follow signs to Camden, Exiting at Route 676.
- Proceed along Route 676 to Exit 5B marked "Last Exit Before Toll".
- Stay straight at light off of Exit ramp (7th Street).
- Go to State Street (two blocks) and make right.
- Proceed about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile until you come to a light and make a left onto River Road (Convenience Store on Corner).
- Take River Road until 31st Street and make a right.
- Proceed one block on 31st Street and go through the stop sign making a left into the School's Parking Lot.
- Proceed to front door at the top of the stairs.
- Secretary's office will be through the front door.

From Walt Whitman Bridge:

- Take the Camden/Gloucester City Exit.
- Proceed in the left lane about 1000 feet to the Camden Exit.
- Turn left and continue on Route 676 (follow directions above for Route 676).

From Route 130 Northbound:

- Proceed to Route 676 (follow directions above for Route 676).

From Atlantic City Expressway:

- Pick up North-South Highway (Route 42) Follow directions above.

From Admiral Wilson Boulevard (Route 30 West):

- Proceed approximately one mile from the Airport Circle where the road forks.
- Take the right fork marked "Local Traffic Only, Last Exit Before Toll".
- Continue straight ahead to Seventh Street and turn left onto Federal Street.
- Follow Federal Street cross over bridge, make left at light (River Road).
- Take River Road to 31st Street and make a right.
- Go down one block and through stop sign.
- Camden Academy Charter High School is on the left corner, make left into parking lot.
- Proceed to front door at top of the stairs.
- Secretary's office will be through front door.

From Route 130 Southbound:

- Proceed to Airport Circle.
- Take the right fork marked "Local Traffic Only, Last Exit Before Toll".
- Continue straight ahead to 7th Street and turn left onto Federal Street.
- Follow Federal Street cross over bridge, make left at light (River Road).
- Take River Road to 31st Street and make a right.
- Go down one block and through stop sign.
- Camden Academy Charter High School is on the left corner, make left into parking lot.
- Proceed to front door at top of the stairs.
- Secretary's office will be through front door.

From Benjamin Franklin Bridge:

- Drive Through toll booths, keep to the Right.
- Take 1st Exit for Rutgers University.
- Proceed on Broadway for 2 Blocks.
- Make left onto Federal Street.
- Make a left on Tenth Street.
- Make a right onto River Road. Take River Road to 31st Street and make a Right.
- Go down on block past the stop sign and make a Left into the School's Parking Lot.
- Proceed to the front door on the top of the steps.
- Go through the front door to the secretary's office on left.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Camden's Promise Charter School

879 Beideman Avenue
Camden, New Jersey 08105
856-365-1000 ext. 100
Fax 856-365-1005

camdenspromise@aol.com

www.cpcks.k12.nj.us

COUNTY:	Camden
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Camden
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Mr. Pedro DeCasanova
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Dr. Joseph Conway
POPULATION SERVED:	Grades 6 to 8
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1998
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1998

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of Camden's Promise Charter School is to provide the youth of Camden with a successful educational experience. The school acknowledges that both family and community involvement are integral to the student's academic achievement level, and will focus on fostering strong partnerships between the school, family and community. Through these partnerships, the school will strive to create a nurturing environment by providing each student with the five fundamental resources deemed necessary for healthy child development by the President's Summit for America's Future. These include: a one-on-one relationship with a caring adult, a safe place to learn and grow, a healthy start, a marketable skill through effective education, and a chance to give back to peers and the community.

In order to provide a quality education, the curriculum offered will involve rigorous academics with a holistic approach to education. Special emphasis will be placed on the disciplines of Environmental and Biological Sciences. Relevant hands-on programs which integrate the development of mathematics, technology, and literacy skills will be utilized both in the school and in the community to create an authentic educational environment for the student. The development of character, leadership skills, conflict resolution abilities, and community responsibility will be stressed to provide the students with the necessary tools to become contributing members of a democratic society.

Directions to Camden's Promise Charter School
(See Directions to Camden Academy Charter High School)

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Center for Responsible Economic and Technological Excellence (CREATE) Charter High School

164 Lembeck Avenue
Jersey City, New Jersey 07108-3803
201-413-1500
Fax 201-413-1800

createhighschool@aol.com

COUNTY:	Hudson
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Jersey City
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Mr. Louis Casanovas
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Mr. Steven Lipski
POPULATION SERVED:	Grades 9 to 11
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 2000
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	2001

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

CREATE provides a diverse learning community access to a rigorous, technology-based economics, mathematics, science, and humanities curriculum with emphasis placed on critical thinking and ethical problem solving to compete responsibly as citizens in a diversified global marketplace.

We at CREATE believe that children learn best with an ambitious educational program supported by a nurturing educational environment. We believe every one of our children can achieve at very high levels, but it requires the best educational research and practice, new school management strategies, as well as community and family support. In brief, children in Jersey City need a reinvented American public high school.

To meet the needs of our children, we have designed our school with connections across grades and subjects, strong community support, and high levels of participation. We call for significant and substantial change in teaching and learning, management and governance, and how our school addresses the health and well-being of our students to overcome barriers to learning.

We at CREATE are composed of three essential components:

1. *Teaching and learning* – Included are standards for a thematic, interdisciplinary curriculum; diverse classes; challenging, reality-based assignments; focus on transitions from school-to-work or post-secondary education; and the preparation of teachers as highly effective curriculum planners.
2. *Learning supports* – We at CREATE strongly desire to establish a sense of extended family. We want to integrate health and human services at our school to overcome barriers to student learning, and involve all sectors of the community in support of the school and its students. This component emphasizes an array of supportive activities designed to enable learning.
3. *Governance and management* – We at CREATE seek inclusive decision-making, use data to inform decisions, facilitate collaboration, and ensure that our school can continually improve and evolve. These

organizational elements are designed to involve all members of CREATE and build capacity within our school to maintain and design a better learning community.

Technology and professional development are the tools that support all components of CREATE's design. Technology is used to support the learning process, access information, and create and share curriculum. Professional development incorporates new knowledge about how students learn, new skills in teaching methods, and ways to align the curriculum to standards and assessments to measure and maximize student learning.

We at CREATE focus on improving student achievement by encouraging teachers to do three things:

1. *Know their students well* - Our design emphasizes assisting teachers in the design of organizational strategies that extend student/teacher contact time.
2. *Make strong connections between what students know and what they need to learn* – A thematic interdisciplinary curriculum emphasizes the linkages between subjects and allows students to learn by focusing on personally meaningful questions and engaging in related experiences. Solid emphasis is placed on the principal academic subjects of math, science, history, English, Spanish, computer science, business, and the creative arts. Students are expected to reach high levels of achievement in these areas and demonstrate an understanding of the major concepts of inquiry, critical thinking, problem solving, and practical application.
3. *Build values and citizenship for democracy* – Our whole school community is deeply engaged in school affairs and life-long learning. Emphasis is placed on developing a well rounded individual through health and fitness, social and emotional growth and self-regulation.

These goals for achievement are reached through a range of instructional strategies including heterogeneous grouping, team teaching, individualized instruction, project-based and experimental learning opportunities, independent work, and group investigations.

We at CREATE believe in the time tested, yet simple adage:

ACTION SPEAKS LOUDER THAN WORDS!

Directions to CREATE Charter High School

From NJ Turnpike:

Take the turnpike to Exit 14A (the Bayonne exit). After the toll, veer towards the far right and make a right turn. At the traffic light make a right on to Broadway (Broadway turns into Garfield Avenue), after 2-3 blocks you will go through three lights. The fourth light will be Lembeck Avenue. Make a left onto Lembeck Avenue. You will pass Ocean Avenue and then you will come to Old Bergen Road. The school will be in front of you on the right hand side. Enter from the Lembeck Avenue entrance ring bell and go to the 3rd floor.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

chARTer~TECH High School for the Performing Arts

413 New Road

Somers Point, New Jersey 08244

609-926-7694

Fax 609-926-8472

www.chartertech.org

COUNTY:	Atlantic and Cape May
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Linwood City, Mainland Region, Northfield City Ocean City, Sea Isle City, Somers Point
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Mr. L. G. Klause
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Ms. Janice Strigh
POPULATION SERVED:	Grades 9 to 12
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1998
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1999

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

chARTer~TECH High School for the Performing Arts was chartered by the NJ DOE in January 1998. Originally scheduled to open September of that year but unable to secure an adequate physical plant, the school took an unscheduled planning year. It opened in September 1999, in a renovated elementary school in Linwood, Atlantic County, New Jersey. During year one in accordance with its charter the school served 162 students in grades 9, 10, and 11. In years two and three, the school charter increased the population served to 216 students in all four high school grades. In school year four (02-03), the charter was amended to its present level of 250 students.

This year will be our third year in our new 39,000 square foot building. The building features professional quality performing arts instruction areas and the most intensive technology infrastructure in any public school in New Jersey.

The school has three major areas of concentration:

- **Academic Achievement:** Every student is required to pass a rigorous academic curriculum ¹ (each year: English, science, social studies, mathematics and two years of world language). By eliminating half-days from the school schedule, and by extending the school day, chARTer~TECH has approximately 15% more instructional time than typical comprehensive high schools. A chARTer~TECH diploma requires completion of 160 credits, compared to a minimum of 115 for the State of New Jersey.

¹ Students also take physical education and health each year.

- **Artistic Achievement:** During the 9th and 10th grades, every student must pass ten credits in their artistic major (90 minutes per day in vocal music, instrumental music, theatre arts, dance, or TV & film). During the 11th and 12th grades, every student must pass 15 credits in their artistic major, 10 in their major and 5 in cross-artistic performance production. All five artistic majors are certified as vocational programs eligible for funding under the Carl D. Perkins program. The curriculum offers community-based performance and apprenticeship opportunities. Academic and artistic subjects are integrated.
- **Achievements In Technology:** A school-wide LAN and the Internet are the major conduits of educational content. With student:computer and staff:computer ratios of better than 1:1, technology is used to support virtually every instructional and administrative function of the school. We make use of Microsoft software to teachers and students to access school files remotely. These accomplishments led Family PC Magazine and The Princeton Review to name chARTer-TECH as one of the nation's 34 "top-wired" high schools. Students leave school completely proficient in the Microsoft Professional Office Suite.

Directions to chARTer-TECH High School

From the North:

Take the Garden State Parkway South to Exit 30 (Somers Point). Continue straight on Route 9/New Road approximately 2 miles. Look for Groveland Avenue – continue through traffic light. chARTer-TECH is located right past the Eckerd Drug Store on the left side of the road – 413 New Road, Somers Point, NJ.

From the South:

Take the Garden State Parkway North to Exit 29 (Somers Point). Continue straight on Route 9/New Road approximately 2 miles. Look for Groveland Avenue, continue through traffic light. chARTer-TECH is located right past the Eckerd Drug Store on the left side of the road – 413 New Road, Somers Point, NJ.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Classical Academy Charter School of Clifton

20 Valley Road

Clifton, New Jersey 07013

973-278-7707

Fax 973-278-7720

magdaderosa.classicalacademy@earthlink.net

www.classicalacademy.com

COUNTY:	Passaic
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Clifton
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Mr. John DeVita
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Mr. Vincent DeRosa
POPULATION SERVED:	Grades 6 to 8
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1998
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1998

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

As stated in its original charter application of 1998, some important academic objectives and innovations which the Classical Academy has implemented in each of its four years of operation, and which have been demonstrated to be effective in increasing student learning include:

- a. A prescribed liberal arts/humanities curriculum for all students.
- b. A 'no tracking' policy – students are not grouped on 'ability' or scholastic history.
- c. Latin mandatory for virtually all students.
- d. Two required language arts courses per year.
- e. Thematic elements of a traditional 'classical' curriculum including reading classical epics of Homer and Vergil, and studies in classical mythology.
- f. Elimination from the school day and students' schedules of 'non-academic' subjects and electives such as: home economics, photography, dance, shop, etc. More time on traditional academics and learning.
- g. Small classes of 15-18 students.
- h. All classes are 60 minutes in duration.
- i. More school day time devoted to academics and traditional scholastic pursuits than is generally the reality in most other public schools.
- j. Use of time and money for one objective: greater student academic and learning attainment; a corresponding diminishment of 'administrative' costs.
- k. A rather complete absence in the school's structure of non-teaching professionals and other administrative office holders and functionaries who are found in considerable numbers in public school districts; therefore, a greater percent of total Classical Academy money is spent on classroom and direct student learning, that is, in pursuing academic goals and measures of success for the next five years, particularly as regarding GEPA comparative scores.

Directions to Classical Academy Charter School

From South:

Take Turnpike North to New Jersey Parkway North; Exit NJ Parkway at exit 155 (Paterson/Rt 19 and 80) Note: 1) this is a left lane exit, 2) Do Not take the left lane exit 153 which reads "Clifton" Route 46. After exiting Parkway North at 155P, continue on exit ramp, you are now on Rt 19, continue for about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile and take the first right turn at the sign reading: "Broad Street/Clifton". Bear right at the bottom of exit ramp. Continue for about 100 yards to the stop light. At this stop light make a left turn. You are now on "Fenner Ave." Continue up Fenner Ave. to the next stop light, make a right turn. You are now on Valley Road. Proceed 500 yards to the School, which is on your left (20 Valley Road). Proceed up the school driveway around the building and park behind the school.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Discovery Charter School

303-309 Washington Street

Newark, New Jersey 07102

973-623-0222

Fax 973-623-0024

adewey@aol.com

COUNTY:	Essex
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Newark
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Ms. Loretta Thomas
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Ms. Irene Hall and Ms. Barbara Weiland
POPULATION SERVED:	Grades 4 to 8
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1998
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1999

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The school environment is a dynamic and growing community that provides children the freedom and support necessary to pursue their own questions and interests so that they can grow as individuals, become aware of their strengths and learning styles and contribute their skills, talents and knowledge to the school and community at large. The pedagogy of the school provides a fertile ground for growth by engaging the learners in new and fun experiences, which challenge, complicate and/or contradict their existing thinking.

Mission: To use the process of living to build students' natural curiosities and develop their workplace readiness skills. Our students demonstrate the understanding necessary to become good citizens, lifelong learners, critical, creative and reflective thinkers, writers, and effective communicators.

The educational program is multi-dimensional and interdisciplinary. It incorporates facilitated conversation, writing and hands-on learning in technology, the arts and sciences, literacy, community service and entrepreneurship. Curriculum develops workplace readiness skills, builds on students' natural curiosities, incorporates play and invention, and puts a great emphasis on creative expression, critical thinking, writing and reflection. Goals for students are to become productive citizens and workers to communicate powerfully and effectively, and to think critically. Features include the Kids in Business program.

Directions to Discovery Charter School

From Western New Jersey, Berkeley Heights, and Summit area:

Take Route 78 East toward Newark. Exit at Clinton Avenue (It's a left lane exit). You will be on Hillside Avenue. Go three blocks and bear left at the fork onto Washington Street. You will pass the Star Ledger plant on the left; continue four more blocks and the United Way building will be on the left.

From Union, Hillside area:

Take Route 22 East. Bear left at the sign for Newark (Route 21) and stay left under overpass. Follow Route 21 over the bridge and then get into the far left lane at the end of the bridge. Make a left at the light for first left turn. Go one block and turn right on Broad Street. Go about one block (you will pass City Hall on the right). Turn left on William Street (Renaissance Mall will be on your right before the turn). Go two blocks and make a right onto Washington Street. The United Way building will be on the left.

From Southern New Jersey:

Take the New Jersey Turnpike North to Exit 13E (Route 81 North) Continue on 81 North for approximately 1.5 miles and then merge onto Routes 1/9 North. Follow Routes 1/9 for 2.3 miles until you reach Route 21 (McCarter Hwy). Merge onto Route 21 North and follow for 1.6 miles and turn left onto E. Kinney St. Stay straight on East Kinney, cross over Broad Street and turn right on Washington Street. Continue for two long blocks and the United Way building will be on the left.

From Northern New Jersey, Cedar Grove and Wayne area:

Take the Garden State Parkway to Exit 145 (Route 280 East). Follow signs for First Street at end of exit, turn right on First Street. Go three lights and turn left on to West Market Street. Stay on West Market Street until University Avenue. Go right on University Avenue. Continue on University Avenue for three lights to Court Street and turn left. Go one block to Washington Street and turn left (Mobil station on the right). Go one light and the United Way building will be just ahead on the left.

From New York City (Lincoln Tunnel):

Take the New Jersey Turnpike to Exit 15E (Raymond Blvd). Follow Raymond Blvd. for 1.8 miles and merge onto Market Street. Follow Market Street for 0.8 miles and turn left onto Broad Street. Follow Broad Street for 2 blocks to William Street and turn right (Renaissance Mall will be on your left near the turn). Go two blocks and make a right onto Washington Street. The United Way building will be on the left.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

D.U.E. Season Charter School

1000 Atlantic Avenue
Camden, New Jersey 08104
856-225-0511
Fax 856-342-7050

COUNTY:	Camden
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Camden City
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Mr. Ralph B. Green
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Dr. Doris C. Carpenter
POPULATION SERVED:	Grades 1, 2 and 5
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 2004
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	2005

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Executive Summary and Directions not available at time of printing

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

East Orange Community Charter School

99 Washington Street
East Orange, New Jersey 07017
973-996-0400
Fax 973-996-0398
eoocs@theeoocs.org

COUNTY:	Essex
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	East Orange
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Mr. Toddy L. Brown
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Ms. Linda H. Muchell
POPULATION SERVED:	Kindergarten to grade 4
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1998
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1998

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

East Orange Community Charter School believes that each child is a unique, social human being, endowed with potential that can and must be developed. As a member of a greater society, a child must be nurtured encouraged, motivated, guided, directed and taught how to recognize and pursue their full potential to become productive and responsible citizens. We believe that children learn best and most when they are active participants in the learning process with a developmentally appropriate curriculum that employs hands-on activities and includes opportunities for cooperative learning and peer integration.

In its five years of operation (since September 1998), EOCCS has taken great strides towards achieving our mission, which is to promote excellence by providing all students with hands-on, "active learning" experiences through "back-to-basics" activities. Not only do our academic activities take place in learning centers where children work in small groups and interact with peers and educational manipulative, but we also implemented several significant programs, designed to elevate student achievement, which include: math remediation and enrichment; supplemental art [The Talented Art Program]; world languages [World Language Club]; supplemental reading programs: Reading Recovery, Reach Up! For Reading, Reaching High and Guided Reading; Technology Lab; Speech Therapy; Health; Character Counts; Music; Physical Education; Before/After School programs; and Scouting (both Boys and Girls). Class Field Trips are also a tool that EOCCS encourages participation in for cultural and educational development of our students.

For the parents and the community, we offer several training programs, some of which include: Parents Anonymous, Parents are People Too! Even Start Family Literacy Program (G.E.D./E.S.L.); the Breathe EASI (Asthma education) Program; Job Fairs and Computer Classes. Our Support Groups consist of: Brother-to-Brother (Male Involvement), Sister Circle, and a Grandparents Support Group. In addition, the parents and staff have formed a "Book Club" wherein they meet to discuss the fine points of a recently read book.

The students' achievements are documented through parent-teacher conferences, student portfolios, the Corn Associates, as well as other standardized testing – such as Met 6, Terra Nova, Stanford 9, Brigance and the NJ-ASK-3 & 4.

In addition, East Orange Community Charter School employs Inclusion Teachers, Mental Health Counselors, and Social Workers to assist our students with other areas of their academic and social development skills. Our School Nurses, in conjunction with our School Physician, ensure that the students have health screening, i.e. eye, hearing, dental and physicals, throughout the school year. Lastly, we recently implemented the Breathe EASI (Asthma Educational Outreach) Program, which serves our students and the community-at-large.

Directions to East Orange Community Charter School

Parkway – North/South:

Take Parkway Exit 145 – Follow Sign to Route 280 West; Bear left and go over the overpass. Bear right (**Do Not Get Onto Route 280 West**). Take Service Road to top of hill. It merges with Freeway Drive West. Travel West 6 traffic Lights to South Harrison Street. Turn right at traffic light on to South Harrison Street. Travel 4 traffic lights to Park Avenue. Just before the 4th traffic light bear right on to Park Avenue (**Landmark – First Union Bank**). East Orange Community Charter School is 2nd building on Left. The address is 682 Park Avenue; parking is on site (**Landmark – 1st building on left is American Red Cross**).

Turnpike – North/South:

Take Turnpike Exit 15 West (Oranges) – Take Route 280 West. Travel 280 West to Clinton Street Exit. Bear right following sign to Clinton Street (**Do not follow the sign for Parkway Entrance**). You are now on the Service Road. Take Service Road to top of hill. It merges with Freeway Drive West. Travel West 6 traffic light to South Harrison Street. Turn right at traffic light on to South Harrison Street. Travel 4 traffic lights to Park Avenue. Just before the 4th traffic light bear right on to Park Avenue. (**Landmark – First Union Bank**). East Orange Community Charter School is 2nd building on left. The address is 682 Park Avenue; parking is on site (**Landmark – 1st building on left is American Red Cross**).

Route 280 West:

Take Route 280 West to Clinton Street Exit. Bear right follow sign to Clinton Street (**Do not follow the sign for Parkway Entrance**). You are now on the Service Road. Take Service Road to top of hill. It merges with Freeway Drive West. Travel West 6 traffic light to South Harrison Street. Turn right at traffic light on to South Harrison Street. Travel 4 traffic lights to Park Avenue. Just before the 4th traffic light bear right on to Park Avenue. (**Landmark – First Union Bank**). East Orange Community Charter School is 2nd building on Left. The address is 682 Park Avenue; parking is on site (**Landmark – 1st building on left is American Red Cross**).

Route 280 East:

Take Route 280 East to South Harrison Street Exit. Exit onto Freeway Drive East. Travel 1 Traffic light to South Harrison (**keep in left lane**). Turn left at traffic light onto South Harrison Street. Travel 5 traffic lights to Park Avenue. Just before the 5th traffic light bear right onto Park Avenue (**Landmark – First Union Bank**). East Orange Community Charter School is 2nd building on Left. The address is 682 Park Avenue; parking is on site (**Landmark – 1st building on left is American Red Cross**).

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Elysian Charter School of Hoboken

301 Garden Street
Hoboken, New Jersey 07030

201-876-0102

Fax 201-876-9576

KPLM12000@yahoo.com

www.ecsnj.org

infor@elysiancharter.org

COUNTY:	Hudson
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Hoboken
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Ms. Steven Feinstein
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Ms. Melissa Landera
POPULATION SERVED:	Kindergarten to grade 8
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1997
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1997

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The mission of Elysian Charter School of Hoboken is to build an active community of lifelong learners, provide a safe and nurturing environment, and educate each and every child to his or her fullest potential. We also believe that our community expects a creative educational environment. The school provides a learning community in which children, teachers and families grow and develop together as lifelong learners.

At Elysian Charter School, all children will explore, understand, and analyze the human and natural environments that are significant at different stages of development. We will use a hands-on approach to learning in a child-centered environment, emphasizing high expectations and student achievement.

Directions to Elysian Charter School of Hoboken

From 95 South:

Follow directions below.

From 280 North:

Follow signs for Lincoln Tunnel (this will put you on I-95, which is the turnpike), Follow I-95 North to the Lincoln Tunnel exit. After exit you will be on 3 East and 495 (they combine). Stay right and take the last exit before the toll, which is the Hoboken Exit. Go straight through the first light, turn right at the second light. Take this road through approximately four lights. At the fourth light, at 14th and Park Avenue, (there is an Amoco station on the corner), turn left. Go one block and turn right on Garden Street. Drive straight for 11 blocks. We are located between 4th and 3rd street, between Garden and Bloomfield Street, in the iron gated courtyard with an Elysian sign above the entrance. Go inside the courtyard and ring the buzzer. Look for parking anywhere and please be aware of signs for street parking to avoid ticketing.

From Newark:

Take 1 & 9 North to Pulaski Skyway towards Holland Tunnel.
(See below)

From Turnpike North:

Take Exit (14C, 14B, 14A). Take final exit 14A, towards Holland Tunnel. Stay in the far-left lane. You will see the Holland Tunnel. At the light, turn left. Go straight through three lights towards the railroad trestle. Turn right at the trestle. Go straight on Observer Highway. You will pass many streets (Madison, Grad, Clinton, Willow and Park Ave.) Turn left on Bloomfield Street. Continue until 4th Street and turn left. Go one block and turn left again on Garden Street. Elysian is located in the Rue Building at 301 Garden Street. Our entrance is on 3rd Street, between Garden and Bloomfield Street. Entrance is in the iron-gated courtyard with the Elysian sign overhead. Go inside the courtyard and ring the buzzer. Look for parking anywhere and please be aware of signs for street parking to avoid ticketing.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Emily Fisher Charter School

31 Chancery Lane
Trenton, New Jersey 08618

609-656-1444

Fax 609-656-0999

www.fishprep@aol.com

COUNTY:	Mercer
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Trenton
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Mr. Crosby Copeland
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Mr. G. Dallas Dixon, Esq.
POPULATION SERVED:	Grades 6 to 12
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1998
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1998

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

It is the mission of Emily Fisher Charter School of Advanced Studies to ignite a love of learning in every student, regardless of his or her educational background. It is this school's aim that each student shall successfully graduate from high school and begin a career or additional schooling. Furthermore, the mission of this charter school is to build an innovative, creative school culture that relies on the concepts of mercy and grace to change behaviors that prevent educational progress.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM: The school offers a personally designed curriculum tailored to the needs of the individual student without sacrificing high academic standards and innovation. It features a work readiness program, internships with local employers, volunteer service programs, daily homework, a group-based entrepreneurial project, remedial tutoring and cross-curriculum counseling.

Directions to Emily Fisher Charter School

From Route 1 North or South:

- Take Route 1 (North or South) to the Perry Street Exit.
- Turn left onto Perry Street.
- At the 5th light (Warren Street) is St. Mary's Cathedral.
- Turn Left through the iron gates behind the cathedral into our parking lot.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Englewood on the Palisades Charter School

65 West Demarest Avenue
Englewood, New Jersey 07631
201-569-9765
Fax 201-568-9576

www.charterschool@netzero.net

COUNTY:	Bergen
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Englewood City
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Mr. Paul Raynault
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Mr. Anthony Barckett
POPULATION SERVED:	Kindergarten to grade 6
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1998
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1998

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Englewood on the Palisades Charter School (EPCS) philosophy incorporates the constructivist concept for learning, which supports our aim to meet the academic needs of all learners. The class size of 15 students, coupled with the implementation of The New Jersey Core Curriculum Standards, has allowed our teachers to develop differentiated levels of instruction for all grades using specific learning activities, concept areas and themes that are logical extensions of the standards. Our kindergarten through 7th grade students work together in their respective classes in cooperative learning groups as well as on project-based activities. These learning strategies are used to assist our students with their critical thinking, decision making and problem-solving skills. Self-management skills are also taught to help our students make appropriate decisions, and to demonstrate self and group responsibility for their behavior in their classroom, on the playground and on class trips.

For the past three years the EPCS has incorporated specific concepts from the Dr. Lorraine Monroe Leadership Institute Blackboard Configuration (BBC), which highlight the use of daily proverbs for the development of our students' character and self-esteem. In addition to the daily proverbs, we have implemented the use of weekly value words, a concept that is based on the Marva Collins' school of thought. These value words are a welcomed addition to our Character Education program. In an effort to support the academic needs of our students, we have instituted a school-wide tutorial program. This program has proven to be a significant link to the success of our 3rd and 4th grade students as they prepare for the NJ ASK test.

In house staff development opportunities are provided throughout the school year. In the spring, teachers are asked to provide a list of topics they feel will enhance and support the mission of the school, as well as their classroom. Consultants are brought in to provide staff development in these areas, in addition to areas of concentration that are initiated by administration. Staff is also encouraged to attend outside workshops and seminars which will enhance their professional development. Our most recent staff development initiative has included a visit by Patrick Collins, a consultant from the Marva Collins Preparatory School in Chicago, who visited our classrooms and modeled lessons for our staff.

Directions to Englewood on the Palisades Charter School

From NJ Turnpike North:

- Take NJ Turnpike North to Exit 18W.
- Keep straight and follow the sign for 80 East.
- Take 80 East to Exit 71 (Broad Avenue).
- Stop at end of ramp (stop sign). Stay right (Broad turns into Dana Way).
- Proceed to T-intersection – Turn left onto East Palisades Avenue.
- Take East Palisades Avenue to Engle Street.
- Turn right (one way) onto Engle Street.
- Take Engle Street to 2nd light – Demarest Avenue.
- Turn left onto Demarest Avenue.
- You will see a large church (St. Cecilia's) on the left hand side.
- Turn right into the second driveway after you pass the church.
- Keep straight. At stop sign turn left. We are in the building facing you. Ring bell on right hand side.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Environment Community Opportunity (ECO) Charter School

817 Carpenter Street
Bridgeview Complex
Camden, New Jersey 08102
856-963-2627
Fax 859-963-2628

info@ecocharterschool.org
www.ecocharterschool.org

COUNTY:	Camden
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Camden City
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Dr. William King
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Ms. Antoinette C. Dendtler
POPULATION SERVED:	Kindergarten to grade 2
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 2005
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	2005

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Educational research makes a compelling case that not all students learn or think, alike. Student learning is a varied as the students themselves. Most teaching draws from the same pedagogy, providing few accessible options to students who seek a different way of learning. With the guiding philosophies that education takes place in a variety of environments, including but not limited to school, home and community, and that academic achievement is inextricably linked with proper nutrition and health, ECO Charter School seeks to offer a new "ecology of the school", establishing a learning community that underscores academic excellence, wellness, empowerment, and service.

Mission

The Environment Community Opportunity (ECO) Charter School will empower students to realize their vast intellectual and social potential by teaching them to think critically and creatively and by guiding them to unite mastered skills and contents knowledge to create and pursue their own opportunities. Our students are the children of Camden – they will grow to become adept learners, community leaders and environmental stewards.

Vision and Learning Goals/Objectives

The ECO Charter School's mission is the duty to create and preserve a rich learning community where ideas and inquiry are valued and rewarded. ECO's Charter School community, students will grow to become Adept Learners, Community Leaders and Environmental Stewards.

- Adept Learners are inspired, capable readers, writers, thinkers, researchers, speakers and problem solvers. These students demonstrate the mastery of choice habits of mind such as inquiry, the diligent pursuit of answers, the processing of varied data and the demonstration of multiple forms of expression ---e endeavors that lead children to live as literate, independently successful, responsible emerging adults.
- Community Leaders are self-aware, self-assured, committed citizens who conduct service in their own lives, within their families and throughout their communities. Community leaders demonstrate a

commitment to building and sustaining a healthy school climate. In imaginative ways, no matter how large or small, community leaders use school and larger societal resources to influence change and positively impact the school, local and global community.

- Environmental Stewards are custodians of the Earth; they demonstrate, model and act upon an acute awareness of traditional and non-traditional environmental issues that both benefit and threaten us all. Environmental stewards establish and practice habits that support a healthy lifestyle and they participate in service projects that help the greater community and the world.

Course of Study

ECO Charter School's academic program will incorporate a standards-driven program with the research-based, proven-effective, using the Environment as an Integrating Context for Improving Students Learning (EIC) Framework. ECO's focus on New Jersey Core Curriculum Contents Standards along with the use of EIC will facilitate developmentally-appropriate academic and social learning opportunities that promote students' active participation by leading them to apply learned basic skills and content knowledge throughout interdisciplinary projects that immerse students in the richness of their native urban surroundings. The methodology will provide a vehicle to develop students' cognitive skills by encouraging them to delve deeply into subject matter and to make connections to their own learning. The ECO program will validate students' experiences and empower, motivate and encourage students to work cooperatively and to mobilize in order to achieve shared goals. This course of study will in part, give students "something to live for", and antidote to the anomie, latent and realized, extant in their lives.

The EIC Model™ uses:

- Integrated-interdisciplinary instruction that breaks down traditional boundaries between disciplines;
- Community-based investigations as learning experiences that offer both minds-on and hands-on experience through service-learning opportunities;
- Collaborative instruction so teachers, parents, students and community members can connect together instruction and learning;
- Learner-centered, constructivist approaches adapted to the needs and unique abilities of individual students;
- Combinations of independent and cooperative learning; and
- local natural and community surroundings, as the "venue" for connecting together these proven pedagogies, to improve teaching and learning.

All ECO Charter School students will:

- Become proficient readers and writers of the English language.
- Demonstrate competency in the understanding and application of mathematical computation and problem solving.
- Demonstrate competency in the understanding of scientific reasoning.
- Actively participate in interdisciplinary projects that lead to enriching leadership, service and environmental stewardship practices. (Examples: units including school and neighborhood recycling, park restoration, the visual, cultural and performing arts, nutrition and wellness and/or gardening)

For urban majority student such as those who live in Camden, their view of the world is composed of the neighborhood in which they live. The ECO Charter School is committed to expanding this world view by providing Camden's elementary school children safe surroundings, meaningful, educational and leadership experiences and opportunities to realize their vast potential. Excellent schools are the fertile ground in which emerging minds develop roots; these schools nourish and cultivate leaders. They are the heart of thriving communities.

Directions not available at time of printing

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Freedom Academy Charter School

1400 Collings Road
Camden, New Jersey 08104
856-962-0766
Fax 856-962-0769

principal@kipffreedomacademy.org
www.kipffreedomacademy.org



COUNTY:	Camden
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Camden City
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Mr. Dwight Moxie
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Ms. Alana Walls
POPULATION SERVED:	Grades 5 and 6
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 2004
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	2004

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Tag Line

Freedom starts with a dream.

Values of Freedom Academy

- Unity: a condition of harmony
- Honor: a keen sense of ethical conduct
- Perseverance: the act of undertaking in spite of opposition
- Discipline: regulation of oneself for the sake of improvement
- Excellence: of the highest quality
- Love: unselfish and benevolent concern for the good of another

Colors of Freedom Academy

- Silver: removal of negativity
- Purple: power, success, and independence

Description of Freedom Academy

Freedom Academy is a college preparatory middle school, serving grades 5 – 8 in Camden, New Jersey. Students at Freedom Academy will attend school between the hours of 7:30 – 5:00, Monday through Thursday; 7:30 – 4:00, Fridays only; 9:00 – 1:00, on alternating Saturdays; and three weeks in the summer from 8:00 – 2:00. There will be a heavy focus to bring the students up to grade level in all subjects, especially math, reading, and writing.

Camden has been a city plagued with poverty and a lack of quality educational options. While the current superintendent works intently to improve the quality of education for all students, it is essential that we provide high quality educational options to students and give parents the ability to choose how and where their children will be educated.

Freedom Academy will focus on a rigorous college prep academics, character development, and social responsibility. Students will be held accountable for their behavior and the behavior of their classmates. Students will take part in community service projects that will benefit the greater community.

Mission of Freedom Academy

Freedom Academy will cultivate the knowledge, skills, and character of the children of Camden City, guaranteeing them the freedom to compete in competitive high schools and colleges, and become positive, powerful, and productive citizens.

Directions to Freedom Academy Charter School

From Route 295 South:

- Take 295 towards Camden.
- Merge onto I-76W/I-676/Camden/Philadelphia.
- Merge onto I-676 N via Exit 2 toward Camden/Ben Franklin Bridge.
- Take the Collings Ave exit (Exit 1) toward Collingswood/Gloucester.
- Turn left onto Collings Avenue.
- End at 1400 Collings Road (approximately 100 yards past Wawa on your right).

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Galloway Community Charter School

112 South New York Road
Galloway, New Jersey 08205

609-652-7118

Fax 609-652-3640

www.gccscharterschool.org

COUNTY:	Atlantic
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Galloway Township
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Mrs. Jean Mc Alister
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Ms. Deborah Nataloni
POPULATION SERVED:	Kindergarten to Grade 8
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 2000
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	2000

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In 1995 the Governor of New Jersey signed the Charter School Act allowing New Jersey to become the twentieth state to permit a new kind of public school. The Galloway Kindergarten Charter School opened in September 1997 among the first cohort of charter schools in the state of New Jersey. The success of this full day kindergarten program led to the founding of an elementary charter school, The Galloway Community Charter School (GCCS), in September 2000.

The GCCS offers an innovative program in elementary education that focuses on Technology, Arts, and Humanities, International Studies, and Environmental Education. All students receive instruction in foreign language and technology. Individual Learning Plans and portfolios are maintained for all students. Class size is limited to 15 students per class. The GCCS is involved in a three-year partnership with the Developmental Studies Center to implement their "Caring Schools Communities", a program that encourages and supports school renewal through character education.

Parents are welcome at the charter school and encouraged to become active participants in the education of their children. It is not uncommon to find parents assisting teachers in our classrooms, chairing committees, completing school related tasks from home, or serving on the Board of Trustees. The GCCS is an exemplary model of the response of educators to the increasing demands of the 21st century student.

The Galloway Community Charter School is housed in a newly constructed, 24,000 square foot facility that is located in the heart of historic Smithville.

Directions to Galloway Community Charter School

Take the AC Expressway to Exit 7 North (Garden State Parkway North).
Bear left into the service area. Exit Jimmie Leeds Road (follow the signs to the hospital) and make a right. Travel straight on Jimmie Leeds Road to Route 9 (New Road).
Make left on Route 9 (New Road) and travel north a few miles for about five minutes.
The Galloway Community Charter School will be on the right.*

**The charter school is located in the building just before the antiques center. If you see the antiques center, you went too far.*

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Gateway Charter School

119 Newkirk Street

Jersey City, New Jersey 07306

201-653-0019

Fax 201-653-1119

gcharterschool@aol.com

COUNTY:	Hudson
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Jersey City
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Mr. James Jacobson
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Ms. Aimee Rodriguez
POPULATION SERVED:	Grades 6 to 8
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	September 1997
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1997

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Gateway Charter School is a middle school serving 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students located in Jersey City. At Gateway Charter School, we strive to provide the students with a strong academic program, combined with the opportunity to learn practical, real world job and life skills. Our goal is for the students to become lifelong learners, critical thinkers, effective communicators, and wise decision makers.

The educational program of Gateway Charter School is rigorous. Each student must demonstrate a proficiency in the basic skills, specifically demonstrating an ability to read, write, and compute. The curriculum is in accordance with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards. The school has adapted the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) curriculum. This is a nationally recognized program which provides a curriculum that encourages the development of appropriate workplace strategies and offers a blueprint for the successful development of student-run businesses. Community service is another component of our curriculum. The students work on several projects throughout the year that service the community.

Gateway Charter School offers a program geared for success. It is our conviction that Gateway Charter School is a model for excellence and presents a formidable argument for the viability and the need for charter schools.

Directions to Gateway Charter School

From South Jersey:

Take the New Jersey Turnpike and travel north to exit 14C. Get off exit ramp for Grant Avenue and go to the light which is Montgomery Street. Make a left onto Montgomery Street and travel up to Summit Avenue. At Summit Avenue, make a right. Travel to Newkirk Street and make a left, the parking lot is on the left hand side adjacent to the gray school building. The address is 119 Newkirk Street and the phone number is (201) 653-0016.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Gray Charter School

55 Liberty Street
Newark, New Jersey 07102

973-824-6661

Fax 973-824-2296

graychartersch@aol.com

COUNTY:	Essex
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Newark
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Mr. John Todd
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Miss Verna A. Gray
POPULATION SERVED:	Kindergarten to grade 8
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1999
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	2000

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Gray Charter School is located at 55 Liberty Street, Newark, New Jersey 07103.

At the Gray Charter School we believe that all children can achieve. We believe in an uncommon school devoid of the negative thoughts that certain children cannot master certain skills. Life skills are taught at the Gray Charter School. For example, being on time for school is a very important life skill that is taught and stressed at the Gray Charter School. Another life skill that is taught is helping others, volunteering ones time for the betterment of others. The 6th grade students are doing cross age tutoring. They are tutoring the younger students. I have found the older students to be very eager students, patient and understanding tutors or "teachers" when they tutor younger students. Their attitude towards school becomes extremely positive and it gives them a great sense of accomplishment. Many more life skills are taught in a climate that is conducive to learning. A climate that is always calm, positive, respectful and orderly.

Parents are an intricate part of the Gray Charter School. There are parent volunteers and there is a parent academy. Parents and educators working together are enabling the Gray Charter School to be an extremely successful school in the community.

Something else the Gray Charter School students are involved in to promote high student achievement in grades K-3 is learning the Suzuki Violin Method.

The violin, as instrument for study, has many advantages:

1. Reading music is just like reading words from left to right. (It helps students learn how to read words faster.)
2. Memory abilities are developed through the playing of all music from memory.
3. Concentration and perseverance are required and developed. (Urban children really would benefit from this because they give up on difficult task very easily.)
4. A high degree of sensitivity is developed.
5. Correct tones require precise fingering.
6. Appreciation of the fine musical literature for violin will extend naturally to symphonic and other literature.

The Gray Charter School students are also reading the classic books. Many of life's lessons can be learned by reading the classics, such as morals, determination, endurance, strength, character, and leadership. Many students become thinkers when they read the classic books. Some mathematics is also taught through music. The students of the Gray Charter School are striving for excellence everyday of their life at the Gray Charter School. Thus, we are producing highly educated productive, thinking citizens of the United States of America.

Mission of the Gray Charter School

The Gray Charter School's mission is to provide its diverse student body the best possible education by focusing on the fundamental academic disciplines in an atmosphere that affirms, academic achievement, and in so doing, to offer the community true choice in public education. In kindergarten through 8th grade a solid foundation must be built for a lifetime of learning.

We believe that committed and dedicated teachers can make every child an achiever. We believe in making the poor students good, and the good student superior. We will be molding students for the future by making today different; the classroom is a workshop where all children find the opportunity to give might to their brains. Children will be encouraged to never let the bad conquer the good, thus enabling them with the power to go through life with clear and uncluttered channels.

Directions to the Gray Charter School

From Trenton and Points South:

Take New Jersey Turnpike and exit at 13A. Follow signs for Newark Airport/Route 1 & 9 North. As you pass Anheuser-Busch Brewery make your way over to left lane. Follow signs for "Route 21 & 22 – Take Route 21 Exit, this will be a Left hand exit. Go approximately 10 blocks, pass the school (Green Street) on your Left to the next light (Lafayette Street). Turn left and go 2 blocks – Make left onto Columbia. Go 1 block to Green – turn Left onto Green Street. The school is on your Right at the end of the block.

From North Jersey:

Take New Jersey Turnpike South and Exit at 13A. follow the above directions.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Greater Brunswick Charter School

429 Joyce Kilmer Avenue
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901

732-448-1052

Fax 732-448-1055

<http://greaterbrunswick.org>

COUNTY:	Middlesex
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Edison Township, Highland Park, New Brunswick
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Ms. Carla Haynes-Siglam
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Mr. Rick Pressler
POPULATION SERVED:	Kindergarten to grade 8
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1998
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1998

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Greater Brunswick Charter School is defined by the broad themes of child-directed learning in the vein of constructivism; parental and community involvement; and a regional district serving New Brunswick, Edison Township, and Highland Park.

We are passionately committed to creating and operating a diverse learning community to educate the whole child. We are dedicated to creating a living curriculum that evolves out of each child's interest and talents. We are devoted to working together (students, families/sponsors, and teachers) to create a school that nurtures individuality, mutual respect, cooperation and social involvement, develops the critical thinker in all of us and fosters a life long love of learning.

There are three pillars upon which the Charter School will be built:

- Children direct their own education;
- Students, staff, and families/sponsors create a learning community; and
- The Charter School builds civility, community, and democracy.

Our school has come a long way since 1998; we purchased our own building in August 2004, and we look forward to growing to our full size of 300 students within the next few years. Our program continues to expand and we are increasing our commitment to the performing and visual arts. We have established productive partnerships with Rutgers University, Middlesex County College, and other institutions; these partnerships enable us to offer exceptional educational opportunities to our students.

Directions to Greater Brunswick Charter School

From Princeton and South:

- Take Route 1 North to Route 18 North.
- Exit Route 18 North at New Street (past Commercial Avenue light).
- Follow New Street straight across George Street.
- Turn Left onto Livingston Avenue.
- Proceed approximately a half mile to Charles Street.
- Turn Right on Charles Street and proceed to the end.

The school is directly across the intersection on Joyce Kilmer Avenue. There is parking in the lot and additional parking is across the street.

From New Jersey Turnpike:

- Take Exit 9, follow signs for Route 18 North, New Brunswick (to the right past the toll booths).
- Proceed on Route 18 North to New Street (past Commercial Avenue light).
- Follow New Street straight across George Street.
- Turn Left onto Livingston Avenue.
- Proceed approximately a half mile to Charles Street.
- Turn Right on Charles Street and proceed to the end.

The school is directly across the intersection on Joyce Kilmer Avenue. There is parking in the lot and additional parking is across the street.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Greater Newark Academy Charter School

(formerly Newark Charter School)

72 Central Avenue

Newark, New Jersey 07102

973-242-3543

Fax 973-242-5792

pturnamiana@thelearningproject.org

COUNTY:	Essex
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Newark
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Ms. Cynthia Brantley
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Mr. Peter Turnamian
POPULATION SERVED:	Grade 5 to 8
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1999
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	2000

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

NCS opened in September 2000 to serve 40 students in grade 5, and has grown incrementally to reach our current enrollment of 112 students in grades 6, 7 and 8. We faced numerous facilities issues since our inception, relocating three times and even operating out of trailers, prior to securing our new home. We are thankful for the support of our students and their families during these challenges, and are proud to occupy a safe, accessible, and appropriate school building where we continue to demonstrate remarkable academic progress. Our new building includes fourteen newly renovated classrooms, and additional space that may be used for our planned expansion to a grade 5-12 school.

Newark Charter School's mission is to create trusting, respectful relationships with students and families, and a structured, safe environment that promotes academic excellence and emotional, physical and social well-being. We believe that children learn best when they are actively engaged in meaningful learning projects, when they are challenged to think for themselves and receive positive reinforcement, and when their parents actively participate in their education.

Our new facility is only one of the ways we continue to support our students, as is evidenced by the significant gains in student achievement during the 2002-2003 academic year. Since entering our school, the number of current 8th graders reading at or above grade level has increased 300%. Cumulative student attendance was 96%, far above the Newark public school average; staff attendance was 98% and 100% of our staff chose to return this past year. In a recent school survey, 80% of students report that their teacher believes they can do well in their schoolwork.

Directions to Newark Charter School

Driving from Route 280 East:

Take extreme right lane of Route 280 East following signs for Harrison. Use Exit 14A (King Blvd.). At bottom of ramp, turn right onto King Blvd. Bear right and continue on King Blvd. Make left turn at third light (Central Ave.). Proceed two blocks.

Driving from 280 West:

When near the "Draw-Bridge Ahead" sign, prepare to exit. Stay left until passing the second Exit sign. Exit from right at second Exit 15 sign. Upon exiting, make a right turn (State Street). At light make right turn (University Ave.) At third light make left turn (Central Av.) Proceed one block.

Driving from North or South Via Garden State Parkway:

Take Exit 145 to Route 280 East and follow directions above.

Driving from Routes 24/78:

Take Routes 24/78 to Garden State Parkway and follow directions above.

Driving from North or South via New Jersey Turnpike:

Take 15W to Route 280 West and follow direction above.

Driving from the East:

From Lincoln Tunnel, take NJ Turnpike South to Exit 15W for Route 280 West and follow directions from above.

Public Transportation:

By rail to Newark's Broad St. or Newark Penn Station.

From Newark Penn Station:

NJ Transit bus #72 or #76 from Penn Station stops at Library.

From Broad Street Station: Walk three blocks South on Broad St. to Washington St.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

The Hoboken Charter School



4th and Garden Streets – 3rd Floor

Hoboken, New Jersey 07030

201-963-0222

Fax 201-963-0880

www.hobokencs.org

	COUNTY:	Hudson	
	DISTRICT REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Hoboken	
	BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIRPERSON:	Ms. Helen Cunning	
	SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Mr. Donald DePascale	
	POPULATION SERVED:	K-12	
	ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1997	
	YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1998	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Hoboken Charter School is a K-12 community of learners that seeks to develop the academic, artistic, personal, and civic growth of all of its members through its commitment to service learning and learner-centered education.

The Hoboken Charter School opened its doors on September 8, 1998. Conceived and developed by a group of professional educators, parents and community members, the school's founders and faculty believe that a community composed of learners of all ages builds a spirit of collaboration that is a necessary part of a successful educational experience. The Hoboken Charter School provides a learning environment where expectations are clear and consistent at all levels, and where students are known not only by their peers, but by the entire school community. An emphasis on curriculum that places the student at the center of inquiry is the foundation for the school's four critical learning "cornerstones." These cornerstones are: rigorous academics, arts literacy, and personal and civic growth.

The Hoboken Charter School holds "Service Learning" as its central theme and mission. Through this valuable educational tool, students bring the community into the classroom and extend the walls of the classroom out into the community. Service learning offers a way to tie the curriculum to community action. It enables teachers to employ a variety of effective teaching strategies that emphasize learner-centered, interactive, and experiential education. Service learning places curricular concepts in the context of real-life situations and empowers students to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize these concepts through practical problem-solving, often in service to the community. Students at the Hoboken Charter School identify community problems; design, implement, and evaluate action plans; and engage in ongoing personal reflection. Through these experiences, students become active, contributing members of the school community, the city of Hoboken, and beyond. In developing this approach, the Hoboken Charter School has developed relationships with a wide variety of individuals and groups within and beyond the Hoboken community.

The Hoboken Charter School recognizes that teachers and students must be given the appropriate time and space in which to work and learn. Moreover, this work and learning must be focused on the continuing development of the learners' minds. We insist that students clearly exhibit mastery of their school work and the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards, that teachers engage in an on-going re-examination of their practice, and that parents and community members use the school to further their own continuing education and personal development.

The ideas that drive the Hoboken Charter School—learner-centered service learning in a multi-age community—allow us to create an academically intense environment in an inclusive setting. We are deeply committed to our vision of a school in which all members of the Hoboken community feel welcome and are invested in the development of Hoboken's youth.

Directions to the Hoboken Charter School

The Hoboken Charter School is located in two different buildings, separated by five city blocks. You are either coming to the Demarest building or the Brandt building.

DEMAREST: 4th and Garden Streets, 3rd floor.
Entrance is on 4th Street, between Garden and Bloomfield.

WARNING: Do not park in the Demarest School lot. You will be towed.
Parking is available on the street. Observe street cleaning and Resident only signs

BRANDT: 9th and Garden Streets, 3rd floor. The entrance is on 9th Street, between Garden and Park. Inform guard at the desk that you are here for the Hoboken Charter School and she will direct you to the 3rd floor. Parking is available on the street. Observe street cleaning and Resident only signs.

Our phone numbers are DEMAREST: 201-963-0222 ext. 221
and BRANDT: 201-963-3280

From South Jersey or States South of New Jersey:

Take NEW JERSEY TPKE North.

Take NEW JERSEY TPKE EXT EAST RAMP towards 14A-BAYONNE/14B-JERSEY CITY/14C-HOLLAND TUNNEL.

Follow signs to HOLLAND TUNNEL.

Merge onto NEW JERSEY TPKE EXT/I-78 E (Portions toll).

Turn LEFT onto JERSEY AVE. Turn RIGHT onto HOBOKEN AVE (just beyond railroad overpass).

HOBOKEN AVE becomes NEWARK AVE/NEWARK Street.

NEWARK AVE/NEWARK ST becomes OBSERVER HWY.

Turn LEFT onto WASHINGTON ST.

Turn LEFT onto 6th ST. Turn LEFT onto GARDEN Street.

The school is between 4th and 5th across from the park.

From North Jersey or States North of New Jersey:

Take NEW JERSEY TPKE South.

Follow signs for LINCOLN TUNNEL.

** Take HOBOKEN Exit- last exit in New Jersey.

Go down ramp to light.

Go through light and follow this road bearing RIGHT - ball field and Lincoln Tunnel will be on your right.

This road leads you right into Hoboken (about 3/4 mile).

When you get to 14th ST in Hoboken, make a LEFT. (Amoco station is on the right. The Malibu Diner is across the street.)

Go TWO blocks to GARDEN ST. and make a RIGHT.

Continue down Garden (one way) until you reach 4th ST.

The park is on your right and The Demarest School is on your left.

From New York State:

Take N.Y. Thruway South to 17 South to Route 3 East. Follow signs to Lincoln Tunnel.

See Above **

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Hope Academy Charter School

700 Grand Avenue

Asbury Park, New Jersey 07712

732-988-4227

Fax 732-988-9218

hopeacademy@aol.com

COUNTY:	Monmouth
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Asbury Park
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Mr. David Christopher
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Ms. Alexis C. Harris
	Mr. Peter J. Cheney
POPULATION SERVED:	Kindergarten to grade 8
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 2001
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	2001

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

It is the belief of the Hope Academy Charter School community that our commitment to intellectual excellence, character development, and service learning will positively impact and transform students, their families, and the greater community, thus breaking destructive negative cycles and behaviors.

Mission Statement:

The mission of Hope Academy Charter School is to provide the finest academic, character education, and service learning programs possible to produce an educated, technologically astute, and community-minded person.

Directions to Hope Academy Charter School

Take the Garden State Parkway South to the Asbury Park exit. This exit is immediately past the Asbury Park Toll Plaza. Turn right at the foot of the exit ramp. You are now on Asbury Avenue heading east. Continue on Asbury Avenue until it merges with Highway 66 east. Take Highway 66 to the "Asbury Park Circle". At the circle follow the signs for Asbury Park. You will see a "Coca Cola" distribution plant on the right. Stay right on to Asbury Avenue. Continue east on Asbury Avenue and after going over the railroad tracks the next light is Main Street. Go through the light, travel to the next traffic light. Make a right turn on to Grand Avenue. The next street is Sewall Avenue. Make a right on to Sewall Avenue and the school will be immediately on your left.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

International Charter School School of Trenton

105 Grand Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08611
609-394-3111
Fax 609-394-3116

COUNTY:	Mercer
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Trenton
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Mr. Tom Ogren
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Ms. Melissa Benford
POPULATION SERVED:	Kindergarten to grade 5
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1998
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1998

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

International Charter School of Trenton was created by a group of parents in 1997 in order to provide an optional setting for elementary age students. A major goal of the charter was to develop a demonstration school, consisting of small class size (17 students per) where urban students could achieve the same high standards of proficiency as their suburban counterparts. A key component to this demonstration is to show that operating a small school with a limited administration can work. Charter schools in Trenton operate with less per pupil money than the Trenton Board of Education spends on the district students. However, the staff at International is able to adopt the students learning styles and needs. The internal structure of the design places students the main constituency. This seems obvious, however, at International students and their families are treated as customers, who will certainly take their business elsewhere if they are not satisfied with the service provided by the school.

Some highlights at International Charter School of Trenton:

- A fabulous staff! Our teachers strive to find the keys to unlocking our student's potential.
- Our Title I program which individualizes instruction for everybody.
- Both French and Spanish instruction beginning in Kindergarten.
- Our own symphony in conjunction with Trenton Community Music School and stringed instrument program for all students beginning in second grade.

Directions to International Charter School of Trenton

From South:

- Take I 95 North to RT 295 North.
- Take RT 295 North to 195 West.
- Take 195 West to 129.
- Continue 129 for 2 lights and make a Right onto Cass Street.
- Go pass the light and make a Right on to Grand Street
- The school is on the corner of Grand and Beatty Streets.

From East:

- Take 195 West to Route 129.
- Make a Right on Cass Street.
- Go 3 Blocks to Grand Street.
- Go pass the light and make a Right on to Grand Street.
- The school is on the corner of Grand and Beatty Streets.

From North via NJ Turnpike:

- Take the NJ Turnpike South to Exit 7A.
- Take 195 West to Route 129.
- Make right a on Cass Street.
- Go 3 Blocks to Grand Street.
- Go pass the light and make a Right on to Grand Street.
- The school is on the corner of Grand and Beatty Streets.

From West via PA-NJ Turnpike:

- Take PA Turnpike East to the NJ Turnpike.
- Continue North on NJ Turnpike to Exit 7A.
- Take 195 West to Route 129.
- Make a Right on Cass Street.
- Go 3 Blocks to Grand Street.
- Go pass the light and make a Right on to Grand Street.
- The school is on the corner of Grand and Beatty Streets.

From North via Route 1:

- Take Route 1 South to Trenton/Morrisville, PA.
- From Route 1 merge toward Route 129 Exit.
- Continue on Route 129 to Cass Street (2 lights).
- Make a Left on Cass Street.
- Go 3 Blocks to Grand Street.
- Go pass the light and make a Right on to Grand Street.
- The school is on the corner of Grand and Beatty Streets.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Jersey City Community Charter School

128 Danforth Avenue
Jersey City, New Jersey 07305
201-433-2288
Fax 201-433-5803
cgolston@jccs.com

COUNTY:	Hudson
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Jersey City
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Ms. Mary Ann Olsen, Esq.
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Ms. Carletta Martin-Goldston
POPULATION SERVED:	Kindergarten to grade 8
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1997
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1997

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Jersey City Community Charter School is in the seventh year of implementation. The school currently provides early childhood, elementary and middle school services to 390 kindergarten through sixth grade students and their families. The school's program has two divisions: the elementary division and the middle school division. The program has attempted to provide a holistic education to its students by addressing the needs of the school child, intellectually, socially, physically and emotionally.

A strategic action plan was developed to assist in the achievement of the goals and objectives of the school. That plan implements strategies and activities that focus on the attainment of those goals. The Head of School serves as an instructional leader and facilities manager. The role allows the staff to focus on facilitating the learning of their students allowing the school to achieve many of its goals and objectives.

The first goal, and the most critical to the success of the students, is to ensure the intellectual development of the students. The mission of the school has been embraced through professional development; staff development; staff collaboration; and the establishment of partnerships with teachers, parents, and the community. The staff has a clear understanding of this mission and has utilized the latest early childhood techniques and strategies to bring about student success.

The school implements several innovative strategies that support student success. Among them are a Comprehensive Family Literacy Program; Student Athletic Mentoring Program; World Language Program; Young Leaders in Training Program; and Character Education Program. These programs and others utilize community partnerships that encourage the establishment of a "community of learners."

Directions to Jersey City Community Charter School

From the New Jersey Turnpike:

- Take the NJ Turnpike to Exit 14A.
- Make a right onto 53rd Street (In Bayonne).
- Go to Broadway - Make a Right turn. (Broadway changes to Garfield Avenue.)
- Follow Garfield Avenue to Danforth Avenue.
- Make a Left turn – go through traffic light (Ocean Avenue).

- School is on the Right.

Note: PARKING IS ALONG THE STREET. PLEASE OBSERVE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE STREET PARKING.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Jersey City Golden Door Charter School

180 Ninth Street
Jersey City, New Jersey 07302
201-795-4400 ext. 3425
Fax 201-795-3308

www.goldendoorschool.org

COUNTY:	Hudson
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Jersey City
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Ms. Elizabeth Aviles
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Mr. Brian Stiles
POPULATION SERVED:	Kindergarten to grade 8
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1997
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1998

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

With Direct Instruction at the core of its instructional model, The Golden Door is proving that every child can succeed when given the right opportunities. Inside bright and colorful classrooms, dynamic teachers engage students in fast-paced and highly interactive reading, language/writing, spelling, and primary math lessons that have been tested and polished for over thirty years. Rich and carefully crafted lessons in mathematics in the middle school curriculum, along with science, history, geography, foreign language, literature, music, and the arts, broaden students' understanding of the world in the tradition of the classical liberal arts education, and a fully integrated character education program contributes to a safe and orderly learning environment.

Without appropriate program delivery, even strong curriculum programs will not be successful. Golden Door places great emphasis on how to implement and deliver educational programs. In general education classes our students are grouped homogeneously in small groups of six to eight students. Students are tested regularly to ensure appropriate academic placements. Teachers are constantly monitoring students for first time correct responses, possible concept difficulties and overall student performance. This close monitoring is essential to our students' success.

Teachers are also held to a very high standard. Specific program implementation is vital to the academic success of our children. Teachers are required to participate in regular professional development and program training in order to ensure proficiency in curriculum implementation. Golden Door Charter School schedules regular professional development for its teaching staff. In addition to a five-day, pre-service training in August, monthly half-day in-services are also scheduled and implemented. In addition to our group professional development, Golden Door also encourages teachers to seek out and participate in off-site professional development.

Golden Door also places great emphasis on student conduct and behavior. We implement two very specific and structured behavior plans. Our Kindergarten through Fifth grade use a program called the "green team." Our middle school uses a similar program that encourages kids to be "gold", allowing them to display a gold pin and participate in student requested activities. Both plans are extremely effective, evidenced by our orderly classrooms and minimal office referrals and suspensions.

With everything combined, Golden Door offers an alternate choice to a free public education: a wonderful learning environment, strong curriculum, committed teachers and administration and active parental influence.

Directions to Golden Door Charter School

From the New Jersey Turnpike:

- New Jersey Turnpike to Eastern Extension (Exits 14A, 14B, 14C).
- Go to end of Turnpike, Exit 14C.
- Continue on this highway about 2 miles after toll. Go down the ramp to traffic light.
- Go straight through traffic light, continue on this road through a few traffic lights (about 1/8 miles) until you come to Marin Blvd. This is a major intersection just before the Holland Tunnel Toll Booths.
- Make a right on Marin Blvd. Go 1 ½ blocks. Make a right into our parking lot.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Lady Liberty Academy Charter School

23 Pennsylvania Avenue
Newark, New Jersey 07114
973-623-9005
Fax 973-623-4088

COUNTY:	Essex
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Newark
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Mr. Raymond Codey
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Ms. Fiona Thomas
POPULATION SERVED:	Kindergarten to grade 8
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 2000
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	2001

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

To have all children be active learners who participate in constructing knowledge and understanding, and provide them with the necessary resources and learning opportunities so they can transform their thoughts into concrete tools that can be used to shape and control their environment.

Beliefs

- Academic success is in the reach of all students.
- Students will always be challenged to perform at a higher level.
- Collaboration and involvement among staff, students and parents is critical to learning success.
- A school community must work to build a culture that respects, promotes and elaborates the gifts of a diverse and multicultural society
- Technology must be an integral component in delivering curriculum and assessments.

Student Population/Class Size

For the 2003-2004 school year, Lady Liberty has 444 students in grades K-8. There are 19 pupils per class for grades K-5 and 18 students per class for grades 6-8.

Services Offered

Lady Liberty Academy Charter School employs a Family Service Coordinator who oversees all support services offered by the school. The person serves as the coordinator of the Child Study Team that consists of a Learning Consultant and School Psychologist. We utilize a Speech/Language therapist and an Occupational therapist as needed. A second social service support person has been hired to support the middle school students. In addition, Lady Liberty Academy employs a Basic Skills teacher, Math Specialist and Reading Specialist.

Curriculum

Lady Liberty Academy Charter School utilizes a comprehensive curriculum that consists of a research based reading program and a problem solving and activity based math program developed by the University of Chicago. In Science we use a hands on approach that allows the students to discover the properties of matter and space. Social Studies focus on providing the student with knowledge of their community and the global society. An emphasis is placed throughout on developing writing and communication skills. The academic program is rounded out with music, art, physical education and health classes.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Lady Liberty Academy Charter School students have an opportunity to participate in a wide range of after-school programs. These include homework assistance and academic enrichment. We also have winning girls' and boys' basketball teams and an excellent cheerleading squad. For this year we've incorporated a Yearbook Committee, Poetry and Drama club, and Chess club.

Parent Involvement

Parents are an integral part of the Lady Liberty Academy Charter School family. The Parent Teachers Organization has been involved in reviewing and revising the discipline policy, recruiting parent volunteers, obtaining classroom donations and fundraising.

Directions to Lady Liberty Academy Charter School

Take NJ Turnpike to Exit 14. Follow signs for Rt. 1 South or Rt. 22 W. Before reaching these highways, take the exit for Rt. 21/McCarter Highway. Once on McCarter Highway, make a Left turn onto South Street. Go 2 blocks. Lady Liberty Academy Charter School is at the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and South Street.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

LEAP Academy University Charter School

639 Cooper Street
Camden, New Jersey 08102
856-614-2088
Fax 856-614-5601

stbranch@camden.rutgers.edu
www.camdenrutgers.edu/camden/cfsucl/leap

COUNTY:	Camden
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Camden City
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Dr. Gloria Bonilla-Santiago
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Dr. Stephanie Branch
POPULATION SERVED:	Kindergarten to grade 12
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1997
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1997

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The LEAP Academy University Charter School opened its doors September 15, 1997 with a total enrollment of 324 students in grades K-5th, making it the largest and one of the first charter schools in the state. In 2001, the state approved the consolidation of the K-8 school with the newly created high school. Today the consolidated schools enroll 648 students and will expand to 702 students by 2004-2005 when it prepares to graduate its first high school class. The guiding principles of the school are high expectations, a holistic environment, integrated and active learning, positive attitudes, and varied forms of assessment.

Hallmarks of the LEAP Academy include its extended school year (September to July) and extended day (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.); strong partnership with Rutgers University, the Delaware River Port Authority, community and civic organizations, the New Jersey State Aquarium, business leaders, philanthropic organizations and a range of local, county and state government agencies; emphasis on mathematics, science, and technology; experiential learning; multi-age groups; professional development for teachers and staff; holistic approaches for working with families; comprehensive health services, with programs for children and families designed to reduce drug use and violence; school-linked human services to meet the needs of the family; and parent organizing and training.

Rutgers University supports the LEAP Schools through its Centers of Excellence. These Centers are staffed and operated by Rutgers University and are designed to enhance opportunities for the children and families of Camden through the integration of education, health and human service programs, and community development. The Centers provide an opportunity for faculty, staff and students to engage in the development and delivery of multidisciplinary, collaborative, and long-term approaches, all geared to solving some of Camden City problems.

Our foundation rests on a range of educational "best practices" in terms of preparing students to reach acceptable levels of student achievement and success. The school's best practices are based on a pedagogical framework that reflects cooperative learning between students, teachers and staff, and parents; thematic teaching which encourages team-teaching and innovation; connecting teaching and classroom learning with learning about one's community and society; flexibility, patience, initiative, self-confidence, as well as academic excellence; the provision and guarantee of a physically, socially, and culturally wholesome environment where students and their parents need not worry about basic health services and safety; and education of the whole person. This

framework also emphasizes the professional development of teachers in order to enhance their skills as educators and strong parental involvement as key partners in the learning process of their children and partners in the development of the charter school. The LEAP model also incorporates a unique partnership with Rutgers University, which has allowed for university input and support in all areas of development, including governance, curriculum, sharing of facilities, faculty and college student involvement, and research and application of best practices. These frameworks for best practices are supported strongly by the Board of Trustees and the leadership of the school.

Directions to LEAP Academy University Charter School

From New Jersey Turnpike (North or South):

- Turn off at Exit 4. After toll booths proceed on route 73 North approximately one mile to Route 38 West.
- Route 38 will merge with Route 30.
- Proceed on Route 30 West for approximately one mile where the road forks.
- Take the right fork marked "Local Traffic Only, Last Exit Before Toll".
- Continue straight ahead to Seventh Street and turn left.
- At the foot of the Seventh Street Bridge, turn right onto Cooper Street.
- The school is the first building on your right.

From Route 295 (North or South):

Southbound – coming from the North

- Turn off at Route 38 West exit at Moorestown.
- Route 38 will merge with route 30.
- Proceed on Route 30 West for approximately one mile where the road forks.
- Take the right fork marked "Local Traffic Only, Last Exit Before Toll".
- Continue straight ahead to Seventh Street and turn left.
- At the foot of the Seventh Street Bridge, turn right onto Cooper Street.
- The school is the first building on your right.

Northbound – coming from the South

- Turn off at exit for North-South Freeway (Route 42).
- Follow signs to Camden, exiting at Route 676.
- Proceed along Route 676 to Exit 5B marked "Last Exit Before Toll – Benjamin Franklin Bridge."
- Turn left onto Linden Street at the first stop light. Continue one block to Seventh Street and turn left again.
- At the foot of the Seventh Street Bridge, turn right onto Cooper Street.
- The school is the first building on your right.

From Atlantic City Expressway:

- Pick-up the North-South Freeway (Route 42).
- Follow signs to Camden, exiting at Route 676.
- Proceed along Route 676 to Exit 5B marked "Last Exit Before Toll – Benjamin Franklin Bridge."
- Turn left onto Linden Street at the first stop light. Continue one block to Seventh Street and turn left again.
- At the foot of the Seventh Street Bridge, turn right onto Cooper Street.
- The school is the first building on your right.

From Admiral Wilson Boulevard (Route 30 West):

- Proceed approximately one mile from the Airport Circle where the road forks.
- Take the right fork marked "Local Traffic Only, Last Exit Before Toll".
- Continue straight ahead to Seventh Street and turn left.
- At the foot of the Seventh Street Bridge, turn right onto Cooper Street.

- The school is the first building on your right.

From Walt Whitman Bridge:

- Take the Camden/Gloucester City exit.
- Proceed in the left lane about 1000 feet to the Camden Exit.
- Turn left and continue on Route 676 to Exit 5B marked "Last Exit Before Toll – Benjamin Franklin Bridge."
- Turn left onto Linden Street at the first stop light.
- Continue one block to Seventh Street and turn left again.
- At the foot of the Seventh Street Bridge, turn right onto Cooper Street.
- The school is the first building on your right.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Learning Community Charter School

1 Canal Street

Jersey City, New Jersey 07302

201-332-0900

Fax 201-332-4981

www.lccsnj.org

COUNTY:	Hudson
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Jersey City
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Ms. Carol Lester
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Ms. Susan Grierson
POPULATION SERVED:	Kindergarten to grade 8
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1997
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1997

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Overview and Mission

The Learning Community Charter School (LCCS) is a small public elementary and middle school in Jersey City, New Jersey founded by a group of parents and other community members dedicated to excellence and diversity in public education. In September 1997, One of New Jersey's first charter schools, LCCS opened in September 1997 with 98 students in kindergarten through second grade.. An additional grade was added each year until the school completed its final grade expansion during the 2003-04 school year. LCCS is currently at its maximum enrollments of 324 students in kindergarten through 8th grade.

Learning Community offers a diverse group of Jersey City students a world-class education, and is having great success in engaging inner-city children who otherwise might fall through the cracks at larger schools. LCCS does this by maintaining a small school environment with small classes (average class size of 18) and by incorporating parents into the educational process. High expectations are maintained for all students, recognizing that children learn in different ways and at different paces.

The curriculum at LCCS is theme-based and incorporates the traditional disciplines of literacy, mathematics, science, social studies and the arts through an integrated and "hands on" curriculum aligned with the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards. The entire teaching staff is involved in ongoing curriculum planning and professional development. LCCS students receive instruction in Spanish beginning in kindergarten. The school is fully networked, with all classrooms and offices having high speed Internet access. A full-time Technology Coordinator works with teachers to integrate technology into the curriculum. Demonstrating its academic excellence, in 2005, over 91% of LCCS students scored at the proficient or advanced proficient level in language arts and mathematics on the statewide NJ-ASK3 test, with over 35% scoring at the advanced proficient level in math.

A social curriculum is employed throughout the grades, modeling respect for everyone in the school community, teaching conflict resolution skills and encouraging community involvement. The school celebrates its core values— Community, Independence, Respect, Courage, Leadership and Effort— which serve as the centerpiece for weekly student CIRCLE awards and recognition. All middle schoolers participate in a Service Learning program, with eighth graders working as volunteers with community organizations including daycare centers, soup kitchens, animal shelters, and the Jersey City Public Library.

LCCS also runs an extensive after-school enrichment program. "Think Tank," the K-5 after school program won an Innovation Award from the New Jersey Department of Education during National Charter School Week in May, 2004.

Directions to Learning Community Charter School

From NJ Turnpike:

- Take the NJ Turnpike toward New York City.
- Take Exit 14ABC off the Turnpike. It is a Turnpike extension.
- After the toll, take exit 14C (Holland Tunnel) but take the Grand Street exit before you get to the Holland tunnel.
- After the ramp, take first left under the turnpike, then another left and then left on to Grand (you'll be able to see NYC in front of you).
- Take Grand to Grove Street (traffic light) and turn right on Grove Street.
- You will be facing Boys & Girls Club of Hudson County. We are in that building.
- The School's entrance is to the right as you face the building.

Alternate Route from the North:

- Take Turnpike South, eastern spur to Rt 3 East (as if going to Lincoln Tunnel).
- Follow signs to Routes 1 & 9 South to Jersey City.
- Ends at Tonnelle Circle.
- Go around circle $\frac{3}{4}$ of way; follow signs to Holland Tunnel.
- Turn right at Manila (Gulf & Burger King).
- Continue on Manila (it changes to Grove St.) to end.
- You will be facing Boys & Girls Club of Hudson County. We are in that building.
- The School's entrance is to the right as you face the building.

From Holland Tunnel:

- Get into left lane coming out of Holland Tunnel.
- Turn left onto Manila Avenue – the second light (Mobil station).
- Continue on Manila (it changes to Grove St.) to end.
- You will be facing Boys & Girls Club of Hudson County. We are in that building.
- The School's entrance is to the right as you face the building.

From Grove St. PATH Station:

- Exit station on NON-ESCALATOR side.
- Walk to closest corner—of Grove & Columbus Sts.—(SUBWAY sandwich shop).
- Turn left onto Grove St.
- Continue south on Grove St. for 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ blocks to Boys & Girls Club of Hudson County (big building with clock). We are in that building.
- The School's entrance is to the right as you face the bldg.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Liberty Academy Charter School

211 Sherman Avenue
Jersey City, New Jersey 07302
201-217-6771
Fax 201-217-6772

www.libertyacademy.org

COUNTY:	Hudson
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Jersey City
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Mr. Eliu Rivera
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Mr. Frank McCree
POPULATION SERVED:	Kindergarten to grade 8
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1999
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1999

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

RECEIVE A TOP PRIVATE SCHOOL EDUCATION IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL!

"We the educational team of Liberty Academy Charter School, are committed to creating a foundation upon which all students will realize their full potential through diverse cooperative learning experiences. We will provide a safe and caring environment that fosters the development of confident, compassionate and independent contributing citizens. Through a strong partnership between school and home, the students will empower themselves to become life-long learners."

We offer the following programs for students:

Tennis	Dance
Intramural Sports	Yearbook Club
Big Brother Club	Big Sister Club
Health and Fitness	Hooked on Books!
Choir	Drama club
Arts & Crafts	Basketball
Cheerleading	Melodic Musicians
ESPA Academy	GEPA Academy

Free after school tutoring for all K-8 students. We build strong partnerships between home and school to support our students in their journey to succeed. Each child who enters our school is a unique individual who wants to achieve academically and socially. We build our program around the needs of our students and New Jersey standards.

Core Curriculum: math, language arts, social studies, science, performing arts, Spanish, physical education, character education and health.

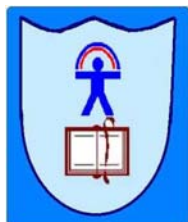
- Small class sizes (maximum 25)
- After Care
- Integrated Technology
- Development of strong character

Directions to Liberty Academy Charter School

From the New Jersey Turnpike:

- Take New Jersey Turnpike Extension Exit 14 and follow signs for the Holland Tunnel.
- After toll, proceed to Second Exit Grand Street.
- Head directly down the ramp and proceed straight to Center Street.
- Turn Right onto Sipersteins Plaza/York Street and continue to follow York Street.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS



Maria L. Varisco-Rogers Charter School

P.O. Box 180
441-43 Broad Street
Newark, New Jersey 07101-0180
973-621-8209
Fax 973-621-8206

Office@mvrogerscharter.org
www.mvrogerscharter.org

COUNTY:	Essex
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Newark
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Ms. Xiomara Torres
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Ms. Anne Heyward
POPULATION SERVED:	Grade 6 to 8
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1999
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1999

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At the present time, Maria L. Varisco-Rogers Charter School has the new facility at 47 Lincoln Park, which is also where our main administration offices are. Also, 6th grade students are at this new location.

The Maria L. Varisco-Rogers Charter School was developed with the idea of preventing dropout by demonstrating that professional educators would be able to care for them and increase their knowledge to full potential.

The school opened its doors to the first 32 students (6th and 7th grades) in August 1999 and presently has increased its enrollment to 96 students for the academic year for 2005-2006. After six years of randomly selecting our students, we believe in our mission statement. The administration and staff at the charter school continues to see the implementation of the goals and objectives set forth in this mission statement in our students, as they progress socially and academically from year-to-year.

The MLVRS counts with the assistance of various community agencies and college in order to provide the necessary services to our students. From Kean and Rutgers Universities, the school receives every semester many students who provide social work services, develop educational activities and interact with all of our students. All the counseling and tutoring services are provided on a weekly basis.

In the academic area students are challenged on a daily basis by having hands-on activities for Math and Science. With Literature and Social Studies students need to prepare to compare or contrast from the past, present and future. In Spanish students are acquiring the knowledge of a second language. With art and music students have the opportunity to express their feelings and talents.

MLVRCs student learn to live community life and at the end of the three years, the students are well developed socially, mentally and intellectually. The MLVRCs continues to challenge our youth to be better students and community representatives.

Directions to Maria L. Varisco-Rogers Charter School

Garden State Parkway (GSP) North or South:

Take Exit 145 to Route 280 East, and then follow Route 280 East directions.

New Jersey Turnpike South:

Take Exit 15 W to Route 280 West, and then follow 280 West directions.

New Jersey Turnpike North:

Take Exit 14 follow signs to Newark the Route 1&9 North/South directions.

Route 280 West:

Take Exit 15 (Route 21, Newark) immediately after the William Stickler Memorial Bridge. At light at foot of ramp, make soft left on University Avenue, go one block to Lackawanna Avenue and make left to MLVRCS, across from Lincoln Motel.

Route 280 East:

Take Exit 14 Martin L. King Blvd. Make a left at light, and an immediate right on State St. at the light make a right and an immediate left on Lackawanna Ave. to MLVRCS.

Route 1 and 9 North/South:

Take exit marked Newark Route 21 North (McCarter Highway). Cross bridge and continue on McCarter Highway, make left on Bridge Street, continue for two blocks to Broad Street, make right at Broad Street, cross first light to MLVRCS on your left (across from River Front Stadium).

Route 78:

Take 78 to the Garden State Parkway: Follow GSP directions.

Route 22:

Take Route 22 to Route 21 (McCarter Highway) North. Follow direction for Route 1&9 North & South.

Route 21 South:

Make a right on Clay Street go two blocks to Broad Street go across first light to Lackawanna Avenue, MLVRCS is on your left.

George Washington Bridge:

Take NJ Turnpike south to Exit 15W. Follow Route 280 West directions.

Lincoln Tunnel:

Go West on Route 3 to NJ Turnpike South to Exit 15W. Follow Route 280 West directions.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Marion P. Thomas Charter School

370-374 South 7th Street
Newark, New Jersey 07103-2047
973-621-0060
Fax 973-621-0061

lynnettencharles@yahoo.com

COUNTY:	Essex
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Newark
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Ms. Denelle Waynick
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Ms. Lynette N. Charles
POPULATION SERVED:	Kindergarten to Grade 8
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1998
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1999

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The African proverb, "It takes a whole village to raise a child" is the cornerstone of Marion P. Thomas Charter School (MPTCS). The proverb expresses our commitment to the children of Newark, is that they belong to a group of caring people who believe in them and their future. Our village school is a learning community dedicated to academic excellence, social emotional, mental and physical well-being. The extended "village" consists of students, their families, caring and creative instructional staff, community partners and business and an active Board of Trustees.

At MPTCS learning takes many forms. The curriculum is aligned with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards, and instruction is delivered through several formats with an emphasis on project-based-learning. Curriculum is thematic, developmentally appropriate and focused on problem solving. Individual differences in learning styles are respected in curriculum delivery. Children are challenged to be critical thinkers and producers of knowledge. Daily instruction includes Language Arts Literacy, Math, Science, Social Studies, Physical Education, Visual and Performance Arts and Spanish. Technology is integrated into the daily curriculum through a wireless network. We put it all together to create a vibrant, dynamic learning community.

Directions to Marion P. Thomas Charter School

From NY/downtown Newark:

From Holland Tunnel stay left to Route 1-9. Pass Route 1-9 right exit and take 280 exit IMMEDIATELY after. Take 280 West to 6th Street exit. Bear right. Make a right onto Orange Street and go to 1st Street. Make a right. Take 1st Street (1st Street becomes Bergen Street) to 16th Avenue. Make a right onto 16th Avenue. Go down to south 7th Street – make a right, MPTCS is on your right.

From McCarter Highway (Route 21)

(If taking Route 21 North make a left onto West Kinney – If taking Route 21 South make a right on to West Kenney) Take West Kinney to Springfield Avenue. Bear left onto 16th Avenue. Take 16th Avenue to South 7th Street. MPTCS is on your right

From South Jersey:

Take Garden State Parkway – North to exit 145 (280 East/West). Stay right to get onto 280 East. Bear right at the 1st Street exit. Take 1st Street (1st Street become Bergen Street) to 16th Avenue. Make a right onto 16th Avenue. Continue on 16th Street until South 7th Street and make a right. MPTCS is on your right.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

New Horizons Community Charter School

45-59 Hayes Street
Newark, New Jersey 07103
973-848-0400
Fax 973-596-0984

Jboxley@nhccschool.org

www.newcommunity.org/whatwedo_edu-newhorizons.htm

COUNTY:	Essex
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Newark
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Ms. Karen Harris-Bowers
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Ms. Juanda Boxley
POPULATION SERVED:	Kindergarten to grade 5
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1999
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1999

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The New Horizons Community Charter School provides a challenging research base core curriculum for kindergarten through grade five students. The basic philosophy of its founders is that, "a world-class education is the birthright of every individual, that all children can learn and that every child should be challenged to reach his or her highest potential". Complimenting the school's rigorous academic program is a structured, orderly environment that adheres to a character education program and the school's code of civility.

Directions to New Horizons Community Charter School

From 100 Riverview Plaza:

Go South on John Fitch Way/NJ-29 S. Continue to follow NJ-29 S.
NJ-29 S becomes I-195 E.
Take the NJ Turnpike exit – Exit 6.
Merge onto the NJ Turnpike North towards Newark/New York.
Take Turnpike exit 14 toward US-22/US-1/Airport and merge onto I-78 West.
Take I-78 Express Lane West toward the Garden State Parkway/Clinton.
Take Exit 56 toward Clinton Ave.
Make a slight left onto Hillside Ave.
Turn Left onto Avon Ave.
Turn Right onto Irvine Turner Blvd. Irvine Turner Blvd. Becomes Jones St.
Turn Left onto S. Orange Ave. CR-510.
Turn Left onto Hayes St.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

North Star Academy Charter School of Newark

10 Washington Place
Newark, New Jersey 07102
973-642-0101
Fax 973-642-5800

www.northstaracademy.org

COUNTY:	Essex
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Newark
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Mr. Bob Howitt
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Mr. Paul Bambrick-Santoyo
POPULATION SERVED:	Grades 5 to 12
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1997
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1997

YEAR EIGHT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: TO COLLEGE AND BEYOND

"On our fall school tour of 15 excellent charter schools in NJ, NY, CT, and MA, one school that absolutely stood out to our Fellows, and to which they make solid and explicit reference in their application writing, is North Star. North Star is living, breathing proof that urban education does work, can work, and the real inspiration that North Star gave to our Fellows cannot be overstated. The sad fact is that there are so few schools doing transformative urban education so well. BES continues to be very proud to champion North Star."

--SUE WALSH, BUILDING EXCELLENT SCHOOLS NETWORK, OCTOBER 2004

"I describe North Star as the best school in Newark, the best school in New Jersey, the best school ever. If my child were not at North Star, I personally believe that he would be six feet under due to gang activities. Instead, North Star has allowed my child to shine and grow, not being lost in the crowd. It is an outstanding school with our children at heart."

--ANONYMOUS PARENT SURVEY RESPONSE, JULY 2005

PIONEERING GLOBAL SCHOOL REFORMERS: After eight years, North Star has become one of the nation's most celebrated public schools. Seen as a part of a new paradigm of school innovation, North Star stands as the flagship school for the Uncommon Schools Network, which has grown to four schools in 2005-06. As testimony to its accomplishments, North Star has welcomed in excess of 2,500 visitors over its first eight years. In 2004-05, the school received over 500 visitors from all corners of the globe: school leaders, politicians, teachers, journalists and educational experts. The school was regularly featured in the media, including articles in the New Jersey Star Ledger and an exclusive spot on Fox News in Cleveland, Ohio. Its directors continued to be centrally involved in the public conversation on school reform, sustaining the work of the New Jersey Charter Public Schools Association and partnering with three of the top national urban principal training programs: New Leaders for New Schools, KIPP Fisher Fellowship, and Building Excellent Schools Network.

ELIMINATING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP: North Star students—90% free/reduced lunch and 85% African-American—completely eliminated the achievement gap on the New Jersey state assessments. Based on results of the general education

students on the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA), 95.2% of the 11th graders scored proficient or above in Language Arts and 85.7% scored proficient or above in Math—significantly higher than the Newark District, all urban districts and even the statewide average. At the same time, 100% of the 12th grade regular education students graduated by passing the HSPA--compared to only 75% of New Jersey students statewide and 35% of the Newark district. North Star's fifth 8th grade class performed equally well on New Jersey's Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment (GEPA). Of the general education students, 93.5% scored proficient or above in Language Arts, 80.6% were proficient in Science, and 80.6% were proficient in Mathematics--results which are double the Newark District's average and higher than the stateside average as well. When compared to 2004 results statewide, North Star's GEPA & HSPA scores place them in the top 2% of all urban public schools in New Jersey (over 170 schools).

100% COLLEGE BOUND AT SECOND HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION: On June 17th, 2005, North Star sent off its second graduating class. All the seniors were accepted to college—an average of four acceptances each—and every graduate will be attending four-year universities, such as the University of Chicago, Boston College, Syracuse, and Rutgers. Over the past two years, North Star's 4-year college placement rate ranks 2nd highest among all high schools in the state of New Jersey. In contrast, in 2004 only 26% of the graduating seniors in the Newark District reported planning on attending 4-year colleges (there is no verification of how many of these actually attended). The school's college placement director brought college representatives to visit the school, broadened students' experiences through campus visits and information, and coordinated students' participation in summer and year-long enrichment programs to strengthen preparation for college.

ENGAGED PARENTS: Parents have been active in all phases of the school, from its founding to its governance. All parents signed the school covenant and came to school a minimum of three times a year to pick up their children's report cards. For the seventh straight year, more than 98% of the parents said in a year-end survey that they were "satisfied" – and more than 93% said they were "very satisfied" – with the quality of academic standards at North Star. More than 98% were also "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the quality of teaching, leadership, curriculum, class size and expectations for parents.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS: North Star continued to make good on its pledge to utilize downtown Newark as an extended campus, using the YM/WCA for its sports program, the Newark Public Library as the school library, the Newark Museum for its regular exhibits, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center for theatre, dance and music enrichment and Rutgers-Newark as a college preparatory resource.

STEADILY GROWING SCHOOL IN HIGH DEMAND: In 2005-06, North Star will expand to three campuses—two middle schools and a comprehensive high school—serving 380 students grades 5-12. After nine annual lotteries, there are over 1,600 Newark students on the school's waiting list.

"I'm so proud of you. You give me hope that every child can learn and go to college. You stimulate me and give me inspiration. You've got golden opportunities here: you are the future of our country."

-- SENATOR FRANK LAUTENBERG, ADDRESS TO NORTH STAR STUDENT BODY, MAY 2005

MOTIVATED STUDENTS: In year eight, student attendance was 97.7% – in excess of the school's 95% target for the eighth consecutive year and higher than both the Newark and New Jersey rates. The number is especially strong given that students were in school at least an hour longer each day than their peers and a month longer over the year.

COMMITTED, TALENTED FACULTY: The faculty, chosen from a large pool of applicants, designed an exciting, rigorous academic program, innovated in the classroom, worked far longer hours than their colleagues in other public schools, and logged a superior 98.4% attendance rate. Not only did faculty members receive extensive in-house professional development, but they also visited many of the highest-achieving urban schools across the country to learn more best practices.

FACILITY USE AND IMPROVEMENT: To accommodate continued expansion, North Star will lease a third school facility in 2005-06 located in Newark's North Ward. In the absence of state facility funding for charter schools, North Star worked with Uncommon Schools—a public charity set up to help the school—to creatively and successfully acquire the necessary resources to finish funding for the high school facility. The proper management of New Market tax credits and federal and private grants funded the purchase and renovation of the high school building, including the creation of a bridge to join North Star's first two facilities.

RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT: Administratively lean, North Star stretched shorter dollars – 69% of the per pupil public funds attributable to students at traditional Newark public schools – to produce a longer program: an 11-month, extended day schedule featuring smaller classes, top-flight teaching, state-of-the-art technology, and a rich offering of educational opportunities. For the eighth consecutive year, the school both maintained a positive cash flow during the year and ended with a surplus.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT: Over the past two years, North Star has developed over fifty interim assessments directly aligned with New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and North Star curricula. These assessments form the backbone of the data-driven instructional model that has greatly enhanced student achievement. In 2005-06, North Star will launch newly revised high school interim assessments, working backwards from Advanced Placement exams and the new SAT.

“North Star is one of the best choices I have made. It’s given my daughter self esteem knowing she could do whatever she put her mind to.”

--ANONYMOUS PARENT SURVEY RESPONSE, JULY 2005

“For the record—I’ve been on more than a few school visits since last we met, and none have impressed me as much as North Star did.”

--KAREN LYTTLE, SCHOOL PERFORMANCE, JANUARY 2005

Directions to North Star Academy

North Star Academy is located at 10 Washington Place on Washington Park between Halsey and Broad in downtown Newark. It is one block from the Newark Museum and across the park from the Newark Public Library. Call 973-642-0101 if you have any questions.

From Garden State Parkway (North or South): Take Exit 145 to I-280 East and follow directions below.

From I-280 East: Exit 14 (M L King Blvd). At stop light, turn right. Get in left lane and turn left at next light (Orange Ave). You’ll see the abandoned Westinghouse Factory on your left. At the end of Orange, you’ll see Riverfront Stadium over your left shoulder and Music City directly in front of you. This is Broad Street. Turn right. Stay in the right lane. After one block, you’ll see Washington Park on your right. At the very end of the park, make a hard right onto Washington Place. As soon as you’ve made your turn, you’ll see North Star Academy on your left.

From I-78/Route 24: Make your way to Garden State Parkway and follow directions above.

From the West: Take I-287 to I-80 to I-280 East and follow the directions above.

From the New Jersey Turnpike (North or South): Take Exit 15W to I-280 West and follow directions below.

From I-280 West: Exit 15A (Rte. 21 South/Newark). Follow ramp straight down to stoplight (Broad Street). Turn left at light onto Broad. You will go under the highway and pass Riverfront Stadium on your left. Make your way toward the right lane. You’ll see Washington Park on your right. At the very end of the park, make a hard right onto Washington Place. As soon as you’ve made your turn, you’ll see North Star Academy on your left.

From the East: From Lincoln Tunnel, take NJ Turnpike South to I-280 West (Exit 15W) and follow directions above.

From Newark Airport: Take US-1/US-9 North toward Route 21/US-22 toward Newark. Merge onto McCarter Highway/Route 21. Turn left on Miller Street and go a block to Broad Street. Turn right on Broad and follow about 2 miles. Turn left on Washington Place.

Via Public Transportation: New Jersey Transit and PATH Trains will take you to Penn Station in downtown Newark. You can walk, take a cab, or find a bus (#72, #76 or Loop shuttle) from the station. New Jersey Transit also has trains to Broad Street Station, which is a four block walk from the school.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Oceanside Charter School

1750 Bacharach Boulevard
Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401
609-348-3485
Fax 609-348-5951
www.oceansidecharter.com

COUNTY:	Atlantic
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Atlantic City
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Mr. Robert Preston
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Ms. Jeanine Middleton
POPULATION SERVED:	Pre-Kindergarten to grade 8
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1999
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1999

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Oceanside Charter School, located in Atlantic City, NJ, is a public charter school serving 338 students in pre-k through eighth grades. Founded in 1999, Oceanside is the first public charter school in the city. Oceanside Charter School takes pride in educating the whole child in a safe, culturally rich environment. We educate our children in small class sizes (18/class) and provide a longer day for instruction (8:00 – 3:30), as we are committed to providing the best services for our community. Our mission, as written in the original charter indicates this commitment.

The Oceanside Charter School mission is to create an environment that enables all children to reach their maximum potential in a school that is clean, safe, and equipped with the necessary technological, curricular, and human resources needed to facilitate effective learning. The children will be nurtured emotionally and challenged intellectually in order to produce respected, productive citizens.

Our curriculum is driven by the Core Curriculum Content Standards with a strong focus on language arts and literacy. Our students enjoy over 2 hours of reading and language arts during each school day and experience innovative literacy-based lessons in the other core content areas. As our students are involved in the hands-on activities in math, science and social studies, they are constantly challenged to incorporate this understanding into literacy-based applications. Our teachers are committed to infusing literacy into every facet of instruction, as we feel that addressing our population's literacy is our primary responsibility.

The instructional philosophy is also grounded in one-on-one and small-group intervention strategies. All elementary grade levels incorporate intervention specialists specifically trained to provide in-class and pull-out support. These individuals are fully certified teachers, effectively bringing our student-to-teacher ratio to 10:1 during the times they are team teaching in these grade levels. Oceanside's supplemental programs focus on engaging the staff, students, parents and community members in active educational experiences. These programs have included community reading nights, free technology classes for parents, after-school clubs, team-building exercises, drama programs, spelling bees, art nights, and many more exciting activities.

Our most exciting current endeavor is the planning of our new 77,900 square foot instructional complex. As our goal is to provide our children with the healthiest, most innovative, and most academically rich environment, we

have embraced an environmentally responsible approach to this project. Our building will be the first Platinum certified United States Green Building Council LEED (Leadership in Energy Efficient Design) public school in the country. It will provide our students with a superior learning environment through detailed attention to daylighting, indoor air quality, and energy efficiency measures. The building will also stand as a regional, State, and Federal demonstration facility to proliferate the importance of sustainable design in the school construction market. Most importantly the building will function as a living laboratory, as our students use the buildings many "green" features to reinforce the Core Curriculum Content Standards.

The Oceanside Charter School provides a small family-oriented feel to the institution of education. Our attention to the personal needs of each child, whether academic, personal, or emotional, is at the center of our model to nurture the whole child and develop well-rounded future leaders of our world.

Directions to Oceanside Charter School

From the Garden State Parkway:

Follow the Garden State Parkway South to Exit 38 (Atlantic City Expressway East).
Take the Atlantic City Expressway into Atlantic City. The expressway will end at a traffic light.
Go through 1st light and make a left at the second light (Arctic Avenue).
This will be a one-way street to the left. Stay in your left lane.
Go approximately 5 lights and make a left on Indiana Avenue.
Go through one light and you will see the school on your right side.

Parking:

You can park on the left side of Indiana Avenue or make a sharp right at the next light and park in front of the school.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Pace Charter School of Hamilton

1949 Hamilton Avenue

Hamilton, New Jersey

609-587-2288

Fax 609-587-8483

pcsdponti@yahoo.com

www.pacecharterschool.com

COUNTY:	Mercer
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Hamilton, Trenton
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Ms. Amy Telford
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Mr. Michael Mikitish
POPULATION SERVED:	Kindergarten to grade 3
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1999
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1999

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

With an emphasis centering on academic opportunities for youngsters that encourage development of skills for life long learning, Pace endeavors to offer a viable choice in public education to parents. Staff, administrators and parents work as a team to ensure the delivery of learning experiences that enable pupils to reach the highest level of academic achievement through curricula anchored in New Jersey's Core Curriculum Content Standards. Enriching supplementary educational opportunities that are responsive to pupils' strengths and needs enhance the learning environment. These supplementary opportunities include the following: The Academic Express Program (NCLB Title I); a voluntary teacher-led tutorial initiative; an art program that is integrated into the academic curriculum through a thematic approach; character development that supports the curriculum with a community based focus on learning for life. The character education emphasis is highlighted by selecting a student each month who best represents one of the pillars of character building. That student, one from each class, is recognized in an assembly and awarded a certificate. In addition, pupils experience Spanish and music as a part of a supplementary approach to the teaching learning process.

Moreover, Pace assures more individualized attention through small class size and utilizes newer academic strategies, such as curriculum blocking. Additionally, the school fosters the establishment of personal relationships with parents and their involvement in all aspects of their children's schooling.

With a thrust toward creating a community of learners, the school demonstrates a strong commitment to professional development that is reflected in teachers' Professional Development Improvement Plans (PIPS). Staff is allocated up to \$500 annually, per teacher, to participate in out of school workshops, conferences and training institutes. Further, staff collaborates in grade level planning activities and turn-key training to communicate thoughts, ideas and shared experiences.

In recognition of the fact that today's schooling is a cooperative effort between students, parents, teachers, administrators and the community at large, Pace understands that we all have a stake in the future of each child.

Directions to Pace Charter School of Hamilton

From the North:

- Take the New Jersey Turnpike South to Exit 7A toward Trenton. Merge to Interstate 195 West.
- Take 195 West to Exit 60B (Interstate I-295N).
- Take Interstate 295 North to Exit 63B toward Route 33 West.
- Stay straight to go onto Nottingham Way/NJ-33.
- At the first light turn left onto Klockner Road.
- At the next light turn right onto Hamilton Ave.

From the South:

- Take Interstate 295 North to Exit 63B toward Route 33 West.
- Stay straight to go onto Nottingham Way/NJ-33.
- At the first light turn left onto Klockner Road.
- At the next light turn right onto Hamilton Ave.

From the West:

- Take Interstate 95 North to Interstate 295 South.
- Take Exit 63 toward Route 33 West.
- Stay straight to go onto Nottingham Way/NJ-33.
- At the first light turn left onto Klockner Road.
- At the next light turn right onto Hamilton Ave.

From the East:

- Take 195 West to Exit 60B (I-295) toward US-1/I-95/Princeton.
- Take Interstate 295 North to Exit 63B toward Rt-33 West.
- Stay straight to go onto Nottingham Way/NJ-33.
- At the first light turn left onto Klockner Road.
- At the next light turn right onto Hamilton Ave.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Paterson Charter School for Science and Technology

69-75 Lehigh Avenue
Paterson, New Jersey 07503
973-247-0600
Fax 973-247-9924
www.patersoncharter.com



COUNTY:	Passaic
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Paterson
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Mr. John Toklu
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Mr. Frank Kosar
POPULATION SERVED:	Grades 6 to 9
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 2001
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	2003

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Paterson Charter School for Science & Technology, a district of residence charter school located in Paterson New Jersey, will serve 478 students in grades 6 to 12, beginning with 178 students in the first operational year of 2003-2004.

The mission of the Paterson Charter School for Science & Technology *is* to provide a responsive educational model that will empower all students, through a standards, equity based academic program, founded on expectations for high student achievement, that will graduate literate, responsible, self-directed persons who have the core knowledge and skills needed to be successful, contributing members of society.

The Paterson Charter School for Science & Technology mission articulates a public school model that promotes education reform in that it is responsive to the needs of Paterson students, parents, and community residents by fulfilling the Legislative findings and declarations promulgated by the Charter School Program Act of 1995 to "offer the potential to improve student learning; increase for students and parents the educational choices available when selecting the learning environment which they feel may be the most appropriate; encourage the use of different and innovative learning methods; establish a new form of accountability for schools; require the measurement of learning outcomes; make the school the unit for educational improvement; and establish new professional opportunities for teachers."

New Jersey is, and always has been, home to some of the world's most educated citizens and intellectually-oriented organizations, especially in the areas of science and technology. The 21st century has arrived and brought with it a breadth of intellectual opportunity never before imagined. However, for today's emerging adult, the gap between having opportunity and realizing opportunity will close only if our students are provided an education program that has expectations for high academic achievement and is responsive to the demands of a technology-based, global economy. This is critical if the State's constitutional obligation to provide a "thorough and efficient" education is to be fulfilled, especially for students residing in "economically and educationally disadvantaged" districts such as Paterson.

The Paterson Charter School for Science & Technology will deliver a comprehensive educational model fully devoted to fostering high academic achievement through the pedagogy of core subjects defined by New Jersey's Core Curriculum Content Standards and accompanying Workplace Readiness Standards. Additionally, the education program will feature further concentration and focus in the areas of science and technology, in subject content and in method of instruction. An education program focused on the academics of scientific exploration facilitates student achievement by tapping into the natural intellect and behaviors that characterize adolescence. Through the delivery of instruction within a scientific context, the tendencies of youth to question, challenge, argue, and find understanding are exercised to promote academic achievement.

The cornerstone of a civil and prosperous society begins with the education of its citizens. The quality of that education will ultimately be measured, not by grades or test scores, but in the contributions made to society as a result of each citizen's ability to fulfill or create opportunity. Science, energetically pursued through the education program of the Paterson Charter School for Science & Technology, will provide the students of Paterson with the knowledge base and intellectual skills needed to become contributing members of society who can problem-solve and participate in effective solutions for local and global conditions rather than become victims lost in the chasm of the "digital divide."

The five goals adopted in 1996 by the State Board of Education expressed in the Strategic Plan for Systemic Improvement in Education which facilitate education reform and support high student academic achievement for the students of New Jersey are embodied in the mission and vision of the Paterson Charter School for Science & Technology. But that mission is not just a statement, it is a commitment to the students of Paterson and expressed in each component of the charter school program which collectively defines the Paterson Charter School for Science & Technology.

Directions to Paterson Charter School for Science and Technology

From South Jersey:

Take NJ Turnpike North After about 18 miles, merge onto the left toward Newark/New York (portions toll). Take the Garden State Parkway Exit 11 toward Woodbridge. Merge onto Garden State Parkway North. After 27 miles, take Route 19 Exit-Exit 155P on the left toward I-80 W/Paterson. Merge onto NJ-19. Take the Exit on the left toward DOWNTOWN/PATERSON. Stay straight onto Ward St. Turn left onto Cianci St. Turn left onto Van Houten St, Van Houten St. becomes Mill St. 5-7 Mill St. is on the left, 4 story brick building. Make Right onto Ellison St., metered parking is available.

From North Jersey:

Take Garden State Parkway South for about 12 miles. Merge onto I-80 West, via Exit 159 toward Paterson. Take the Main St. Exit-Exit 57-C toward Paterson. Turn left onto Main St. Turn left onto Van Houten St. Van Houten St. becomes Mill St. 5-7 Mill St. is on the left, 4 story brick building. Make right onto Ellison St., metered parking is available.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Pleasantech Academy Charter School

535 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue
Pleasantville, New Jersey 08232
609-383-1717
Fax 609-484-1085

COUNTY:	Atlantic
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Pleasantville
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Mr. Keith Mills
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Mrs Brigitte D. White
POPULATION SERVED:	Kindergarten to grade 8
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1998
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1998

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

It is extremely important to maintain an environment at the school which offers each child safety and which encourages him to strive for excellence. Each child enters this school with varying levels of ability and often with heavy emotional baggage. It is the goal of Pleasantech Academy to meet children on their entry level and then enable them to step up higher. We believe that every child is able to learn and given encouragement and instruction, will learn. In an effort to maintain an effective learning climate in the school, we begin each day with the children by encouraging them in their studies; teaching them about making good choices and that all choices have consequences; and impressing on them the motto: Enter to Learn and Exit to Lead.

Professional Development is an area of focus for at the school. We do not want our staff to be left behind while educational advances are being made. All staff members are encouraged to attend workshops outside of the school setting. We are in the process of developing a turnkey program where they will return and then share the information and ideas gained with their fellow staff members, thus multiplying the educational effect of the workshop. As a school, we have also offered key training to our staff to increase their efficacy and confidence. The results can be seen in the performance levels of our teachers. We are very proud of them.

Educational leadership is not limited to the staff alone. "Parents' Night Out" activities have brought in key speakers to help parents in a wide range of areas: Helping Your Child With Homework, Reading, Careers, Understanding Your Child, The Strong-Willed Child, Buying a Home, Empowering Parents, etc. These meetings were very well attended and very well received. This program will be continued in the coming school year.

We at Pleasantech Academy have set a high level of expectations for all staff members. They receive general guidelines in their staff handbooks each year and frequent memo updates, as well as in-person directives. All staff members must be academically qualified to teach our children. However, having a diploma is no guarantee that someone will be an effective teacher. With this in mind, we have begun the practice of auditioning prospective teachers by having them teach demonstration lessons with a real class. Seeing them in action will tell much more than a transcript of their grades. In-depth interviews also provide the information and insight needed to make a final selection. Support staff is also required to meet the new state standards. This has encouraged some to resume their education.

PlesanTech Academy is not only committed to aligning its curriculum with the New Jersey Core Content Curriculum Standards but is strongly committed to enhancing student achievement. With this in mind the school has implemented a number of innovative programs including: Accelerated Reader Program for grades two through six, ACELLUS Math Fundamentals for eighth graders, After-School Tutorial, NJ ASK and GEPA Prep Classes, Academic Sharing Events, Academic competitions, Parents' Night Out.

Finally, the board of trustees, along with a committed staff and concerned parents are moving full speed ahead to prepare our students to be focused and productive citizens in the 21st Century.

Directions to PlesanTech Academy Charter School

From Garden State Parkway:

Take the Garden State Parkway South to Exit 37.
Bear Left on the ramp. Turn Left at the light onto Washington Ave.
Continue down to the third light at Route 9 or New Rd.
Turn Left onto New Rd.
Take the second Left onto Martin Luther King Ave.
The school is right in front of you.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Princeton Charter School

575 Ewing Street
Princeton, New Jersey 08540

609-924-0575

Fax 609-924-7183

cmarsee@aol.com

<http://pcs.k12.nj.us>

COUNTY:	Mercer
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Princeton
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Mr. Peter Yianilos
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Mr. Charles Marsee
POPULATION SERVED:	Kindergarten to grade 8
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1997
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1997

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Princeton Charter School (PCS) is an independent public school, operated by a board of trustees under a charter granted by the Commissioner of Education of the State of New Jersey. PCS opened in 1997 as a fourth through sixth grade elementary school. The school currently operates as a kindergarten through eighth grade school with a diverse population of 280 students and more than 30 staff members. In February 2001, the Commissioner of Education renewed the PCS charter, praising the school for its "well-executed curriculum management plan" and "strong academic standards that are clearly articulated to parents, teachers, and students." In April 2002, the American Academy for Liberal Education accredited Princeton Charter School, the first charter school to win this distinction. The AALE noted in its commendation that the school had achieved "the highest standards we are aware of in the whole realm of K-12 education."

Central to the school's charter is its mission to deliver strong, curriculum-based academic programs in all disciplines and thereby to prepare students for academic success in their education beyond PCS. PCS believes that a thorough and efficient education is best accomplished through a rigorous curriculum; that is, a curriculum that requires mastery of core knowledge and skills. By focusing on the fundamental academic disciplines, PCS maintains an atmosphere that affirms academic achievement. With its clearly articulated goals, PCS offers the community true choice in public education.

PCS is located at 575 Ewing Street in Princeton Township, NJ. In 2003-2004, students are housed in two separate buildings, one building for kindergarten through fourth grade, the other for fifth through eighth grade. All classrooms are newly renovated. A computer lab, science lab, art room, multipurpose room, as well as small group instruction rooms augment the traditional classroom spaces. The grounds (shared by both buildings) include playing fields, a soccer/field hockey field, a volleyball court, a quarter-mile track, a basketball court, and ample playground equipment.

The basic course of study for all students at PCS includes daily one hour instruction in mathematics and English (language arts), forty-five minutes in history, science, and world language (either French or Spanish), art, music, and physical education are held throughout the school week. The daily schedule also includes a period of self-paced reading. To augment its rigorous academic program, PCS utilizes an extensive formal tutoring program.

This program includes both remediation and enrichment, providing students at diverse levels of achievement the opportunity to benefit from one-on-one instruction. The PCS curriculum is set by committees consisting of teachers, administrators, parents, and subject area specialists, and is reviewed yearly.

Currently, students in grades K, one, and two are taught in self-contained classrooms, while students in grades three through eight are taught by subject area specialists. This configuration allows PCS to use flexible and highly mobile groupings, for example, placing students in several math groups (ranging in size from five to fifteen students). In grades six, seven, and eight all classes are split into small groups for mathematics and English classes.

PCS also supports extracurricular programs in drama, foreign language, mathematics, chess, instrumental music, and yearbook, as well as middle school athletic teams in basketball, soccer, lacrosse, cross country, and field hockey. These programs have a high level of student participation and receive strong parental support. Additionally, the school maintains an after-school program that provides structured tutoring as well as supervised free play.

Directions to Princeton Charter School

From Route 206:

Turn on to Ewing Street in Princeton Township. The school is located on the left-hand side on the second block after entering Ewing Street from Route 206.

From Route 1:

Turn on to Harrison Street in Princeton Township. The school is located on the right-hand side, approximately 2.5 miles after entering Harrison Street (Harrison Street becomes Ewing Street).

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Queen City Academy Charter School

815 West Seventh Street
Plainfield, New Jersey 07060

908-753-4700

Fax 908-753-4816

cyncone@eclipse.net

www.queencity.edu

COUNTY:	Union
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Plainfield
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Mr. Ray Blanco
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Dr. Char Stanko
POPULATION SERVED:	Kindergarten to grade 8
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1999
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	2000

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Queen City Academy Charter School, in its fourth year, serves 177 students from the City of Plainfield, grades Kindergarten through eight. Our mission is to provide a nurturing and cooperative learning community where each student can achieve his/her maximum academic, creative and physical potential; develop a lifelong love of learning; develop respect for self and others in a multicultural world; develop self confidence and self esteem; function with high ethical standards; and accept responsibility.

Our students represent the four wards of the City of Plainfield and reflect the diversity of the community. Our enrollment is consistently maintained at its maximum of 177 students and the wait list numbers approximately 140. The school occupies two floors in an historic building in the retail center of the city enjoying revitalization and business expansion. Plans are in place to increase the physical size of the school to include all three upper floors of the facility. New classrooms, art and music areas, and a larger multi-purpose room will be added to the fourth floor.

We assume that children can learn more than is commonly assumed and the true gift of education is to teach children how to learn and to become independent problem solvers. To help students reach these goals the school maintains an average class size of 18 with a student:teacher ratio of 12:1. The kindergarten through fifth grades has a teaching assistant providing additional classroom support, further reducing the adult to student ratio. Furthermore, students receive dance, computer, Spanish, music, art and physical education classes throughout the week—all taught by skilled instructors. Students with special needs are serviced by our teacher of the handicapped, and speech therapy is provided to those students identified in need of this service. Basic skills instruction occurs as in-class support, or pull-out instruction depending upon the grade of the students in need.

The school is beginning its five year curriculum review cycle this year. In an effort to increase not only test scores but to ensure student mastery of mathematics, a through analysis of the school's math program is currently in progress. Representatives from all stakeholders in the school are part of the math curriculum committee.

The school is governed by an eleven member board of trustees with a composition of three educators, three parents and three community members. The Academic Director and a teacher representative are ad hoc members of the board. The trustees meet the second Monday of each month

Directions to Queen City Academy Charter School

From Trenton:

Take Route 1 North. Take Metuchen Exit. You will now be on Middlesex County Route 531. Follow the sign for Route 31 (Route 531 is not a straight road; therefore you must follow the signs). Route 531 will eventually become Avenue. Continue straight until you get to Seventh Street. Make a right on Seventh Street. Make a left onto Grant Avenue. School and Parking Lot is on the right.

OR

Take Route 206 North to Route 22 East. Take the Somerset Street Exit (look for a Honda Dealership on your right). You will be on Somerset Street. Somerset Street will become Park Avenue. Continue straight until you get to Seventh Street. Make a right onto Seventh Street. The School is on the corner of West Seventh Street and Grant Avenue.

From New Jersey Turnpike South:

Take Turnpike North to Exit 10. Follow signs for 287 North. Look for sign that will say Piscataway next four Exits. Bear to your right and get off the first exit. Home depot will be on your right. This will put you on Stelton Road. Kentucky Fried Chicken will be on your left. Take Stelton Road all the way out. Turn Right onto West Seventh Street. Make a Left onto Grant Avenue. The School and parking lot is on the Right.

From Parkway North to Plainfield:

Take Parkway South to Route 22 West Exit (should be Exit 140). Once on Route 22 West continue approximately 10 miles. You will want to get off Route 22 West at the West End Avenue Exit (Staples is on the right). The street name changes to Grant Avenue. The school is on the corner of West Seventh Street and Grant Avenue.

From Route 78:

Take Exit 40 and follow County Road 531 to North Plainfield (Somerset Street) Somerset Street becomes Park Avenue. Turn Right onto West Seventh Street. Make a Left onto Grant Avenue. The School and parking lot is on the Right.

From New York:

Take the Lincoln Tunnel or George Washington Bridge to Garden State Parkway south. Take Exit 140A to Route 22 West. Once on Route 22 West continue approximately 10 miles. You will want to get off Route 22 West at the West End Avenue Exit. Staples is on the Right. The street name changes to Grant Avenue. The school is on the corner of West Seventh Street and Grant Avenue.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Red Bank Charter School

58 Oakland Street

Red Bank, New Jersey 07701

732-450-9799 or 2092

Fax 732-936-1923

mstpennotti1@aol.com

www.redbankcharterschool.com

COUNTY:	Monmouth
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Red Bank
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Mr. Michael Stasi
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Mrs. Meredith Pennotti
POPULATION SERVED:	Kindergarten to grade 8
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1998
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1998

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Red Bank Charter School (RBCS) continued to make significant strides throughout the 2002-2003 school year. In achieving our mission that all children learn and flourish, we at RBCS feel confident that our decision to start sooner and go longer was appropriate. Red Bank Charter School:

Provides a challenging and relevant curriculum based on, but not limited to, the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards, which is child-focused and rich in opportunities and high expectations.

- Through multiple assessment measures, RBCS identified strength and weaknesses in the curriculum, notably mathematics and literary arts. We engaged specialists in these areas to provide guidance to the specific content areas and to offer professional development for our faculty. This strategy was met with success as evidenced by the outcomes both on the GEPA and Terra Nova test scores.
- Our curriculum coordinator, together with the administrator and other teachers, developed school-wide curriculum standards in each core and non-core content areas and character education.
- Other curriculum areas continue to expand and be refined based on the charter's vision, individual student needs, and alignment with high school curriculum. Progress was made in structuring these curriculum areas across all grade levels and aligning them thematically.

Creates a web of connectedness by continually sharing with all stakeholders—parents, students, faculty, administration, and community partners—our beliefs, student progress, school events, and opportunities for engagement.

- We continued to create a level of trust between the school and community. This trust has provided many opportunities for our stakeholders to become engaged in the children's academic and social development and the financial solvency of the school.
- The parent association, guided by the vision of the charter, offered many events and activities for parents to become involved in the school.

Establishes a support structure that provides children, families, faculty, and partners with the means to meet the vision of our charter.

- We continue to refine our partnerships with our community partners and the Consultant Council. In addition, the RBCS Foundation's goal is to provide financial support and community awareness of

RBCS and its mission. The Consultant Council provides direct expertise and guidance in facility, finance, curriculum, and legal matters.

The board of trustees, working collaboratively with the principal, and being responsive to the insights of our community partners, have pursued the philosophy of “cultivating” rather than “converting” our RBCCS students’ abilities and behaviors. The success of RBCS is due, in large part, to two very deliberate focus areas: 1) the carefully crafted, highly responsive implementation plan that is results-driven, and 2) the philosophy that our school is the community.

1.1 GOVERNANCE: BOARD OF TRUSTEES

While reviewing the 2001-02 Annual Report’s list of anticipated issues, the board of trustees’ initial reaction was a tremendous sense of achievement. Accomplishments in the domain of board governance were due in large part to the extraordinary efforts of the principal and staff and the significant support of many key community individuals and organizations. Specifically, we look to these areas of achievement and growth:

1. Financially and academically sound governance;
2. Successful public awareness and outreach;
3. Successful community partnerships, especially with regard to the move of the Century House and educational opportunities;
4. Successful curriculum advancements, notably in mathematics, library, and Summer Institute;
5. Successful grant writing, especially the Dissemination Grant and the Facility Grant; and
6. Growth of the RBCS Foundation and Consultant Council.

1.2 MANAGEMENT: SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Recognizing the broad scope of the principal’s responsibilities, the board of trustees hired a social worker and a counselor activities coordinator to support the principal in managing the students’ needs and the wide array of student-focused activities.

1.3 CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Instruction at RBCS is supported by a standards-based, integrated curriculum that encompasses and is aligned with the seven core content areas. A rigorous and on-going process of examining student performance results ensures that no child is left behind. Our instructional practice continually responds to student needs, underscoring the practice at RBCS whereby assessment drives instruction.

The curriculum expectations for 2002-2003 school year were ambitious. The addition of grades K-3 provided the opportunity for whole school curriculum articulation as well as the challenge of a huge task.

Directions not available at time of printing

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Ridge and Valley Charter School

1234 State Route 94

Blairstown, New Jersey 07825

908-362-1114

Fax 908-362-6680

www.ridgeandvalley.org

ridgeandvalley@earthlink.net

COUNTY:	Warren
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Blairstown Township, Frelinghuysen Township, Hardwick Township, Knowlton Township and North Warren Regional
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Ms Carol Barnett and Mr. David McNulty
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Mr. David Wyllie
POPULATION SERVED:	Kindergarten to grade 8
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 2002
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	2004

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Ridge and Valley Charter School is based on the assumption that human beings are a thread in the miraculous web of life supported by a living universe and that we as humans have a profound responsibility to respect the Earth. The school's primary focus is on ecological literacy and sustainability. The children will learn to make choices in their lives that promote the long-term health of the planet.

The curriculum will use the universe as a context for learning. The program will be highly experiential, allowing children to learn by doing, often out-of-doors, and in multi-aged groups. They will be encouraged to develop critical thinking skills, to challenge traditional assumptions about consumer culture and to derive new models for honoring the world around them. Using this experiential approach, the school will meet the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards set by the State Board of Education. Beyond all mandated state tests, learner assessment will primarily consist of work portfolios and rubrics, rather than traditional letter grades.

Each and every child will be cherished and respected. Children will be encouraged to cherish each other as well as to respect and honor differences. Their creativity and potential will be nurtured and supported. Conflict resolution will be an integral part of the program. The school will encourage active participation of students and parents in shaping the educational experience and will strive to build a stronger community both inside the school and beyond the school walls.

The school is located at 1234 State Route 94, Frelinghuysen Township, Blairstown, in north Warren County on almost eighteen acres. The school sits atop a hill with a magnificent view of the Delaware Water Gap and the "ridge and valley" region to the west. There is a lovely stream, meadows, and access through a neighbor's property to the Paulinskill River Trail that extends for miles in each direction. We are also in close proximity to the Upper Delaware River and the Kittatinny Mountains for further exploration opportunities in our bioregion. The property holds current organic certification from the previous farmer who grew organic market vegetables and the school has an organic garden and greenhouse for the students. The school has a large photovoltaic solar energy

array of panels that provide a substantial amount of the school's electric needs and also serve as a learning tool for the student in sustainable technology and energy use.

Directions to Ridge and Valley Charter School

From Route 80:

Take Route 80 to Exit 12. Go north on Route 521 to Blirstown, approximately 4 miles. Turn right on to Route 94 north and proceed up the hill. The school is on the left just before the Newton Trust/Lakeland Bank.

From Trenton:

Take Route 29 North to I-95 North to Exit 2 (Bear Tavern Rd/CR-579). Turn left at the light. Continue on CR-579 then merge onto US-202 North/NJ-31 toward Flemington. Continue on NJ-31 which becomes US-46. Turn right onto 519 North/N Bridgeville Road. At the four way stop go straight onto 521 North towards Blirstown. Follow directions above.

From New Brunswick:

Take 287 North to 78 West to Rt 31 North and follow directions above.

From New York City:

Take 80 West to Exit 12. Follow directions above.

From South Jersey:

Take 206 North to 80 West and follow directions above.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Robert Treat Academy Charter School

443 Clifton Avenue
Newark, New Jersey 07104
973-482-8811
Fax 973-482-7681
rtreatacad@aol.com

COUNTY:	Essex
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Newark
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Mr. Ralph J. Ciallella
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Mr. Michael A. Pallante
POPULATION SERVED:	Kindergarten to grade 8
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1997
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1997

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Robert Treat Academy Charter School offers elementary school aged children, five and older, an opportunity to learn and grow in a safe and stimulating environment in which the core subjects of reading/language arts (special emphasis), mathematics, science, technology, social science, visual and performing arts, health, physical education and world languages are bonded to the values of self-worth, and respect for one another, one's community, state and nation.

Students, parents/guardians, staff and adult community members each play a critical role in the Academy, a total involvement institution. Parental participation, year-round learning and cultural experiences demonstrate to all that success, hope, and perseverance are habits just as caring, compassion, and fairness are habits.

The Academy nurtures a total commitment to high academic standards, socially acceptable behavior and recognition that all individuals are created equal and must be given an equal educational opportunity.

The Robert Treat Academy Charter School began operation in the fall of 1997 with 100 students in kindergarten and first grade, and plans to add one grade each year. Now in its eighth year of operation, the Academy has 450 students on its rolls. Two sections of 25 students each fill grade levels from kindergarten through eight.

The Academy's eleven-month school year begins in August, ends in June. Every 25 pupil classroom is staffed with a certified teacher and another professional who is either a second certified teacher or a teacher assistant. In addition, volunteers aid daily at the Academy in classrooms and in the playground and cafeteria.

The Academy's professional day is eight hours; the students' day is seven hours. The school's extended day runs from 7:30 - 8:30 AM and from 3:30 - 5:30 PM to provide before and after care for students. A unique extended school day program offers students an opportunity to take remedial and enrichment courses in a safe and secure environment. No student is pulled from regular classroom instruction for remediation or to receive support services which are provided between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. Programs include Reading Recovery, Guided Reading, Tutoring, Homework Assistance, Preparation for the ESPA (the New Jersey Statewide test), Speech and Counseling. Enrichment activities include story time for younger students, word games, chorus, arts and crafts, cheerleading, soccer, basketball, Scouting, computers and Latin. The Do Something program offers additional resources for character building and education.

Students are selected in a lottery. To participate children must be age eligible and parents must provide proof of Newark residency. Fifty new kindergarten students are selected each year. Siblings of existing students are given preference in accordance with the Charter School Program Act.

Because parent participation is crucial to our success, communication between the staff and parents is stressed. Eleven parent meetings are held annually and written report cards and interim reports are issued a total of ten times each year. Monthly classroom newsletters communicate individual classroom goals and objectives and keep parents apprised of the curriculum content and assignments for the month. A school-wide newsletter also reports general news to parents and the community each month. An annual Back-to-School Night kicks off an extensive list of parental opportunities for in-person feedback from teachers and administrators. State-of-the-school reports from the principal to parents take place every year, as do twice-a-year parent conferences and classroom visitation weeks.

In its charter, the Academy set a goal for academic achievement one year in advance of grade level to be measured annually on a standardized test. To date, our students have reached this goal every year in all content areas. The New Jersey statewide test has also measured our students progress. This year, 98% of our students received scores of proficient or advanced proficient in both language arts and mathematics. Robert Treat Academy Charter School was recognized by the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce as one of 70 New Jersey Benchmark Schools. The Academy was the only elementary charter school receiving this honor and it ranks number 1 in its category of 167 public schools with similar populations.

High academic achievement has prepared our students for attendance at the best high schools in the country. A high school placement program, begun in 2003, works with our parents and independent boarding and day schools along the East Coast assuring that our graduating eighth-grade students attend the most appropriate secondary schools.

The Academy nurtures the entire child. Students begin each day at school-wide morning exercises. The program is led by students and built around the celebration of holidays and cultural events and the value and importance good moral fiber and positive personal attributes. Students commemorate famous historical events and individuals, display patriotism, and are immersed in themes that build character and self-worth.

Directions to Robert Treat Academy Charter School

From The West:

Take Route 46 or 80 East to Route 280 East. Get off at the "First Street, Newark" Exit. Make a left and travel on First Street through one traffic light. At the second light (Park Avenue) make a right-hand turn. Go to Clifton Avenue and make a left. Robert Treat Academy is at 443 Clifton Avenue on your right between Treadwell Street and Abington Avenue.

From Trenton & South Via the Garden State Parkway:

Take Route 1 North to the Garden State Parkway North. Get off at the Bloomfield Exit (148). At the light make a right hand turn onto Bloomfield Avenue. Stay on Bloomfield Avenue to Clifton Avenue. Make a left onto Clifton. The Academy is at 443 Clifton Avenue on your right between Treadwell Street and Abington Avenue.

From the New Jersey Turnpike:

Take Exit 15W Newark, Harrison and Interstate 280 West. Take Route 280 West to the Clifton Avenue Exit. Make a right hand turn onto Clifton Avenue. The Academy is at 443 Clifton Avenue on your right between Treadwell Street and Abington Avenue

From New York & North:

Take the George Washington Bridge to 95 South to the NJ Turnpike (Exit 15). Get onto Route 280 West and go to the Clifton Avenue exit. Stay on Clifton Avenue (through the intersections at Park Avenue, Bloomfield Avenue, and Second Avenue). The Academy is at 443 Clifton Avenue on your right between Treadwell Street and Abington Avenue.

From New York City:

Take the Lincoln Tunnel to Route 3 West to Route 21 South. Get off at Third Avenue (the first traffic light after the end of the divided highway). Make a right onto Third Avenue and go to the end to Clifton Avenue. Turn right onto Clifton Avenue. The Academy is at 443 Clifton Avenue on your right between Treadwell Street and Abington Avenue.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Schomburg Charter School

508 Grand Street

Jersey City, New Jersey 07302

201-451-7770 x 121

Fax 201-451-1770

jgaines@schomburgcharter.org

www.schomburgcharter.org

COUNTY
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT
SCHOOL LEADPERSON
POPULATION SERVED
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED

Hudson
Jersey City
Ms. Katherine E. Burno
Dr. James Gaines
Kindergarten to grade 5
January 1999
2000

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Schomburg Charter School was founded on the simple convictions that a first-rate education is the birthright of every individual, that all children can learn, and that every child should be challenged to reach his or her full potential. The Charter School is named in the honor of Arturo Alfonso Schomburg, a man of Puerto Rican and African-American descents, who was responsible for the creation of the nation's largest collection of historical materials related to the culture and heritage of African-Americans. His lifelong commitment to learning and his steadfast belief in the value of education for all children stands as the guiding light for all students who attend our school.

The primary mission of The Schomburg Charter School is to prepare a diverse cross-section of Jersey City children in grades kindergarten through grade five for success as students, citizens, and workers. This goal is to be realized by providing students with a comprehensive, technology-rich curriculum in a supportive and challenging learning environment. Character education is also a very important component of our school, as behavioral challenges presented by students in all urban districts hamper students' educational advancement.

We understand that the realization of this vision will not be an easy one to achieve. We still have a lot of hard work to do; we know that we are on the right track.

Directions to the Schomburg Charter School

From the South:

Take the NJ Turnpike to Exit 14C.
Exit at the Jersey City/Grand Street exit.
Turn LEFT at the first turn on your left.
Then turn LEFT onto Merceles.
Proceed 1 block to GRAND STREET (West).
Continue on GRAND STREET 1 block to the school.

From the North:

Take the NJ Turnpike to Exit 14C.
Exit at the Jersey City/Grand Street exit.
Turn LEFT at the first turn on your left.
Then turn LEFT onto Merceles.
Proceed 1 block to GRAND STREET (West).
Continue on GRAND STREET 1 block to the school.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Soaring Heights Charter School

1 Romar Avenue

Jersey City, New Jersey 07305

201-434-4800

Fax 201-434-7474

soaringheights07302@yahoo.com

www.soaringheights.com

COUNTY:	Hudson
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Jersey City
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Ms. Lisa McConagly
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Ms. Claudia Zuorick
POPULATION SERVED:	Kindergarten to grade 8
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	September 1997
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1997

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Soaring Heights Charter School was founded in 1997 by a group of dedicated teachers from the Jersey City public school system who had a vision, a mission, and the experience to make things happen. The founders believe that when students and teachers develop acute communications and listening skills, students achieve higher levels of academic success. By studying the communication patterns they use while interacting with students and colleagues, teachers at Soaring Heights create constructive environments in the classroom where better, faster, and more meaningful learning takes place.

Students feel safe to speak and ask questions, and teachers provide creative, supportive instruction to children in their care. An acclaimed educator and therapist whose work has been recognized by the New Jersey State Assembly provides communication training each week for the faculty at Soaring Heights. Through this training, teachers learn to develop greater self-awareness, teach more effectively, and avoid burnout and cynicism viewed by many as endemic to urban education.

By advocating this positive and practical vision of education reform, Soaring Heights occupies a unique position among schools in the state and region. Soaring Heights is devoted to maintaining a calm learning environment where teachers and students are able to relax and acquire knowledge in an optimal teacher/learning situation.

Directions to Soaring Heights Charter School

From North and Garden State Parkway:

Take the Garden State Parkway to Exit 153 (Route 3 East).

Follow Route 3 East to Jersey City/Route 1 & 9 South Exit.

Take Route 1 & 9 South to Manhattan Avenue jug-handle. At stop/yield sign make left.

Cross over Routes 1 & 9; a Dunkin Donuts will be on your right.

Go up the hill to the 3rd light and make a right onto Kennedy Boulevard.

Get into the left lane and make a left onto Observer Highway (Route 139). There is a Mobil gas station on this corner.

Go approximately 6 lights and make a right onto Palisade Avenue.
Make a left onto Newark Avenue (Dickinson High School will be on your left).

Go 1 block and make a left onto Third Street.
Soaring Heights Charter School is located at the corner of Third and Monmouth Street in the Riverside Assembly of God Building.

From South and New Jersey Turnpike:

Take Turnpike North to Exit 14C. After toll, get into right lane.

Take Grand Central Street Exit. Get into middle lane.

Go through light and bear right.

Continue one block and make a left onto Monmouth Street.

Make a right on to Third Street and pull into the Assembly of God Church Parking Lot.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Sussex County Charter School



105 North Church Road
Sparta, New Jersey 07871
973-383-6700 x 286
Fax 973-383-2901
jeckel@sussex.tec.nj.us

COUNTY:	Sussex
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Sparta
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Ms. Wendie Blanchard
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Ms. Jill Eckel
POPULATION SERVED:	Grades 7 to 8
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1997
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1997

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Sussex County Charter School for Technology seeks to provide an educational environment which enhances academic learning opportunities through the integrated use of available technologies. A program structured around small class size, a dynamic and integrated curriculum which has been aligned with the New Jersey core curriculum content standards, and the infusion of technology serves to stimulate student enthusiasm and interest in the learning process. Students have the opportunity to become active learners through the practical application of concepts and theories discussed in each of the academic areas. These practical applications provide the student with an opportunity to experience their learning. This program provides for a structured learning experience which emphasizes the development of the adolescent learner, promotes social and emotional maturity, and also provides the skills necessary for a smooth transition from the elementary phase of the educational process to the secondary phase and eventually to the world of work.

Based on the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards, the Sussex County Charter School program offers courses in Pre-Algebra and Algebra, and integrated Humanities course (Language Arts Literacy, Social Studies, Philosophy, and the Arts), Integrated Science (Earth Science, Biology, Physics, and Chemistry), Spanish, Music, and Physical Education and Health. The technology component of the program involves computer literacy, laboratory science technology, commercial art, engineering, computer aided drafting and design, and electronics. Students also take seminar rotations in holocaust studies/character education, conflict resolution/first aid, and performing/visual arts. Finally, students work in small groups with a mentor teacher one period per day on a variety of academic skills as well as community-building activities.

Differentiation of instruction is a major priority at the Sussex County Charter School. Changing the pace, length or kind of instruction provided to students in response to individual learners' needs, styles, or interests is an avenue of educational change today. This instruction is both rigorous and challenging to motivate students to push themselves forward academically. Learning at the school is relevant in that it focuses on essential learning. Instruction is both flexible and varied allowing students, where appropriate, to make choices about how they will learn, and how they will demonstrate learning. Finally, differentiated instruction at the school focuses on depth rather than breadth of knowledge, thus providing a higher quality of learning to the students.

Our educational program operates on a reflective, school-wide portfolio culture, based on eight key learning objectives essential to academic growth. This school-wide reflective portfolio system allows us to more fully integrate academic

subjects, as well as more fully link these academic subjects with the technology emphasis at the school. Not only does this portfolio culture help more fully integrate curricula, it ensures that vital life skills are addressed. Through the portfolio process, students come to understand that learning does not take place in isolated "academic segments," but rather, true learning is integrated across all disciplines and throughout a lifetime.

Caring Community, an integrated character education initiative of the Sussex County Charter School, supports both the emotional development of young adolescents as well as the development of leadership abilities. As a result, student commitment to being kind, helpful, responsible, and respectful of other deepens. Students learn to accept both the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in a democratic society, and develop the skills necessary to live safe, humane, and productive lives.

The Sussex County Charter School for Technology features a community-based atmosphere, emphasis on student responsibility, differentiated and individualized instruction, block scheduling, and a unique partnership with the Sussex County Technical School, which provides an array of technology services, health and counseling services.

Directions to Sussex Charter School for Technology

Via Route 94 North:

Take Route 94 North to White Lake Road. Next road after Route 15; school is on the right. The charter school is in the dome across the street from the high school. Office—Room 500.

From South or East via Route 80:

Take Route 80 West to Route 15 North (Sparta exit). Stay on Route 15 North for 14¼ miles to intersection of Routes 15 & 94 (Amoco gas station on right).

From South or East via Route 23:

Take Route 23 North to the junction of Route 94 in Hamburg. Turn left onto Route 94 South. Go for 7 miles. Turn left onto White Lake Road. Charter school is in the dome across the street from the high school. Office—Room 500.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

TEAM Academy Charter School

85 Custer Avenue
Newark, New Jersey 07112
973-705-8326
Fax 973-556-1238

rhill@teamacademy.org

www.teamacademy.org

COUNTY:	Essex
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Newark City
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Mr. Shavar Jeffries
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Mr. Ryan Hill
POPULATION SERVED:	Grades 5 to 8
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 2002
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	2002

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The mission of TEAM Academy is to prepare all its students with the knowledge, skills, and character traits necessary to succeed in the finest high schools and colleges, and to become exemplary citizens of their community, country, and world.

TEAM Academy is a public charter school in Newark, New Jersey. Founded in September, 2002, it has grown from 80 fifth grade students to over 320 students in grades 5-8 in the last three years. TEAM, like all charter schools, selects its students by lottery. As a result, the student population closely parallels the demographics and academic preparedness of students in neighboring schools. When they enter TEAM, the average student performs in the bottom quartile in the nation in reading, and the bottom third of the nation in math – two to three years below grade level. By their seventh grade year, the first class of TEAM students was performing in the top 10% of the nation in math and in the top third in reading on the SAT-10. TEAM students are making multiple years of educational progress every year they are at TEAM, climbing from well below grade level to well above grade level as they prepare to leave some of the toughest blocks in Newark for the nation's top schools. "Its students, its teachers, its commitment, its discipline, its soul – stand out like beacons in a troubled sea," the late journalist Peter Jennings said of his visits to TEAM.

TEAM is a KIPP (Knowledge is Power Program) school. KIPP is a national non-profit organization that recruits and trains highly effective school leaders to run excellent public schools. KIPP has trained the leaders of over 40 schools that have experienced unprecedented success in some of the nation's most neglected neighborhoods across the nation. KIPP has been recognized as one of the most successful models for education reform in the country. A recent article in the *Washington Post* reported that KIPP schools, "have posted 'large and significant gains' beyond what is average for urban schools." And TEAM Academy is one of the highest achieving schools in the KIPP Network. According to KIPP Foundation CEO Scott Hamilton, "TEAM Academy is setting the standard not only for public schools in New Jersey, but the entire nationwide KIPP network of schools."

TEAM Students Academy at a Glance:

Students

- 320 students in grades 5 through 8; 97% African-American; 3% Latino

- There are more than 300 students on the waiting list to get into TEAM.
- 75% of TEAM students are poor as defined by the U.S. Dept. of Education.

Time on task

- TEAM students spend nearly 70% more time in the classroom than the average Newark student:
- Students attend school from 7:30 AM to 5 PM weekdays, and 9 AM to 1 PM most Saturdays.
- All students attend one month of summer school.

Results

- Students have improved from the 21st percentile to the 71st in reading and from the 31st to the 91st in Math.
- TEAM students will finish two years of high school algebra, and read over 200 books by 8th grade.
- One-fourth of the 8th grade class at TEAM has been admitted to the NJSEEDS or Wight Foundation high school placement programs this year – putting them well on their way to the nation's top high schools. All eighth graders will go on to attend top high schools and will benefit from ongoing counseling to ensure they go to college.
- TEAM students take week-long, life-changing trips to Washington, D.C., Utah, California and Puerto Rico where they build on their hard work in experiential learning modules.

Leadership and Teaching

- TEAM Academy Assistant Director, Sha Reagans, won the 2004-2005 U.S. Department of Education "American Star of Teaching" award for the state of New Jersey.
- TEAM Academy Founding Director Ryan Hill won the 2004 Bank of America Local Heroes Award.
- TEAM teachers have won four out of twenty-five Kinder Awards. The KIPP Foundation has awarded 25 Kinder Awards for Excellence in Teaching, a national teaching award to recognize excellence among their more than 500 teachers nationwide.
- Teachers are available nightly for homework help and advice via cell phones.
- Although TEAM teachers work more than 80 hours per week, the teacher attendance rate is 99.5% and TEAM Academy has experienced zero turnover for two of its three years of operation, and has retained its entire founding staff.

Directions to TEAM Academy Charter School

TEAM Academy is located at 85 Custer Ave., between Elizabeth and Bergen Avenues. It is located in the Weequahic section of Newark, two blocks from Weequahic Park, in the St. Charles Center, former home of St. Charles Borromeo School. TEAM Academy is also across the street from Peshine Avenue University Prep.

FROM GARDEN STATE PARKWAY – (NORTH OR SOUTH):

Take Exit 145 to I-280 East and follow directions below.

FROM I-280 EAST:

Take Exit 14 (Martin Luther King Blvd). At stoplight, turn right. Get in left lane and turn left at next light (Orange Ave). You'll see the abandoned Westinghouse Factory on your left. At the end of Orange, you'll see Riverfront Stadium over your left shoulder and Music City directly in front of you. This is Broad Street. Turn right. Stay on Broad St. for one to two miles.

After passing through downtown Newark, you will see Lincoln Park. Veer right onto Lincoln Park. Go straight through the light as Lincoln turns into Clinton Ave. Go 2 to 3 blocks on Clinton. At the intersection of Clinton, Avon Ave., and Elizabeth veer slightly left on Elizabeth. Continue on Elizabeth for approximately one mile until you reach Meeker Ave. Weequahic Park is on the left. Continue for one more block on Elizabeth until you see Custer Ave. on the right. Take a right on Custer and go to the end of the block, where you'll see the

school on the right. Park in the parking lot and go to the front of the building – Custer Ave. side. The office is half way down the hall on the right.

FROM I-78/ROUTE 24:

Make your way to Garden State Parkway and follow directions above.

FROM THE WEST:

Take I-287 to I-80 to I-280 East and follow the directions above.

FROM THE NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE – NORTH OR SOUTH:

Take Exit 15W to I-280 West and follow directions below.

FROM I-280 WEST:

Take Exit 15A (Rte. 21 South/Newark). Follow ramp straight down to stoplight (Broad Street). Turn left at light onto Broad. You will go under the highway and pass Riverfront Stadium on your left. Continue on Broad St. through downtown Newark.

After passing through downtown Newark, you will see Lincoln Park. Veer right onto Lincoln Park. Go straight through the light as Lincoln turns into Clinton Ave. Go 2 to 3 blocks on Clinton. At the intersection of Clinton, Avon Ave., and Elizabeth veer left/straight on to Elizabeth. Continue on Elizabeth for approximately one mile until you reach Weequahic Park at Meeker St. Continue for one more block on Elizabeth until you see Custer Ave. on the right. Take a right on Custer and go to the end of the block, where you'll see the school on the right. Park in the parking lot and go to the front of the building – Custer Ave. side. The office is half way down the hall on the right.

FROM THE EAST:

From Lincoln Tunnel, take NJ Turnpike South to I-280 West (Exit 15W) and follow directions above.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Teaneck Community Charter School

1650 Palisade Avenue
Teaneck, New Jersey 07666

201-833-9600

Fax 201-833-9225

www.tccsnj.org

tccs@tccsnj.org

COUNTY:	Bergen
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Teaneck Township
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Mr. Douglas Kupfer
SCHOOL LEADPERSON:	Dr. Rex Shaw
POPULATION SERVED:	Kindergarten to grade 8
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1998
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1998

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Teaneck Community Charter School has multi-grade, multi-age classroom configurations. We believe children learn along a continuum and should be given the opportunity to stretch their minds. Our approach to education is a constructivist, "hands on", experiential model that encourages children to seek learning opportunities and to participate in the process. We believe that education is meant to be an enjoyable experience, not a tiresome job.

We are a child-centered school with a significant parent presence.

The Teaneck Charter School is in its fifth year of operation. We currently serve grades K-8. The school has a very diverse student body of 210 students, which will expand to 224 during school year 2004-05. We have 19 teachers, 4 instructional aides, 4 administrative personnel, a school nurse and 2 maintenance men.

Some special features of the school include:

- Mixed age/grade groupings (K, 1/2, 3/4, 5/6 7/8) and ongoing school-wide activities that feature students of various ages working together;
- Small, diverse classes (16 children per class);
- Environmental studies, visual and performing arts integrated into the curriculum and daily school life;
- Art, music physical education and foreign language are an integrated part of our curriculum;
- High level of communication with families;
- Ongoing expeditionary learning to ensure that children interact with the rich resources of their social, cultural and natural world;
- Unique partnerships with community institutions and organizations;
- Standard and authentic forms of assessment;
- Parent-led board of directors that is actively engaged in developing curriculum and guiding school policy.
- Full special service component.

Directions to Teaneck Community Charter School

From Route 17:

Take Rte 17 to Rte 4 East to Queen Anne Road. Get off the Exit and bear to the Right back under the highway heading North. Follow Queen Anne Road for two traffic lights. Make a Left at the second light onto West Englewood Avenue. Go one long block, turn Right onto Palisade Avenue. Follow Palisade Avenue until it ends at a cul de sac. Enter at the driveway to the Right of the cul de sac. You will see a sign Ma'ayanott Academy. The entrance you are looking at is our entrance come to the second floor.

From Rte 4 West (GWB):

Take Rte 4 West To Queen Anne Road. Bear Right onto Queen Anne Road. Follow Queen Anne Road for two traffic lights. Make a Left at the second light onto West Englewood Avenue. Go one long block turn Right onto Palisade Avenue. Follow Palisade Avenue until it ends at a cul de sac. You will see a sign Ma'ayanott Academy. Enter at the driveway to the Right of the cul de sac. The entrance you are looking at is our entrance come to the second floor.

From NJ Turnpike:

Get Off Turnpike Extension At Exit 70b Towards Teaneck. This Is Degraw Avenue. Follow Degraw until you see Palisade Avenue (2 Traffic Lights). Turn Right onto Palisade Avenue. Follow Palisade Avenue until it ends at a cul de sac (about two miles). Enter at the driveway to the Right of the cul de sac. You will see a sign Ma'ayanott Academy. The entrance you are looking at is our entrance come to the second floor.

From GS Parkway:

Take Rte 80 East To Exit 67 Bogota/Ridgefield Park. Follow ramp to top of hill turn Right onto Palisade Avenue. Follow Palisade Avenue until it ends at a cul de sac (about 5 miles.) Enter at the driveway to the Right of the cul de sac. You will see a sign Ma'ayanott Academy. The entrance you are looking at is our entrance. Come to the second floor.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Trenton Community Charter School

363 West State Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08618
609-394-0068
Fax 609-695-0193

jmorrison@trentoncommunitycharterschool.org

www.trentoncommunitycharterschool.org

COUNTY:	Mercer
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Trenton
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Mrs. Lenora Green
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Mrs. Jerri L. Morrison
POPULATION SERVED:	Kindergarten to grade 8
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1997
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1997

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Trenton Community Charter School (TCCS) was founded in 1997 to provide an educational alternative for district children. The school opened as one of the first charter schools in New Jersey with one hundred fifty students in Kindergarten through third grade. In 2003 TCCS moved to its current facility, an 84,000 square-foot building with over seventy-five classrooms and offices that is fully wired for Internet access and a local area network (LAN). TCCS currently serves 600 students in grades K through 8th grade. Beginning with the 2004-2005 school year, separate school directors (principals) supervise the elementary (grades K – 5) and middle school (grades 6 – 8) programs. The school's founder and executive director, Jerri L. Morrison is a former public school teacher and the founder and executive director of Young Scholars' Institute, a non-profit learning center that has successfully helped Trenton area students prepare for college since 1990.

TCCS is a math, science and technology-focused school with a strong emphasis and commitment to acknowledging and developing the immense potential of Trenton's children. TCCS believes that all children can and will succeed if provided the proper learning environment and support. Therefore, TCCS provides a "family-centered" learning atmosphere that encourages and welcomes the participation of parents as equal partners in educating their children. The curriculum is designed to establish an essential and fundamental learning foundation for the students' future academic achievement.

Distinguishing features of TCCS include:

- Small class size
- Extended school day and school year
- Teacher assistant in kindergarten
- Reading Recovery Program (first grade)
- Wee Deliver writing program (K – 5)
- Responsive Classroom® (K – 5)
- 100 Book Challenge supplemental reading program (K – 8)
- Character education

- Full-time parent liaison
- Extensive staff development activities
- Uniform requirement
- Spanish instruction
- After-school enrichment program
- Saturday classes for test preparation
- More than twenty-five school activities
- Partnership with Young Scholars' Institute (YSI)

TCCS promotes its character education objectives through a comprehensive system of recognition and rewards for academic success and positive social behavior. Students at the elementary level receive "Tiger Points" (named for the school mascot) for following school and classroom rules. Their points are converted to Tiger Tokens and Tiger Dollars that they can trade for toys and school supplies. The middle school students have a more detailed "Paycheck" program through which they earn TCCS dollars that they may redeem for items at the school store. A weekly all-school assembly at the elementary level and daily all-school assemblies at the middle school level provide opportunities to reinforce character education themes and to recognize students who are excelling academically and socially.

Parental involvement is a priority at TCCS and is promoted through several avenues. A full-time parent liaison works closely with the two school directors to plan and implement parent programming. The Home and School Association provides a forum for parents to share their concerns as well as to raise funds to support school activities. A network of lead parents at each grade level supports homeroom parents who for each classroom ensure that parents stay informed about school events and encourage parents to participate in various activities. The 100 Book Challenge supplemental reading program encourages and trains parents to serve as "reading coaches" at home while their children read the 100 Book Challenge books, a set of leveled reading books that students earn rewards for reading throughout the school year.

The school's partnership with Young Scholars' Institute provides TCCS students with additional academic and social resources, including after-school enrichment programs, six-week summer programs, college tours for middle school students, one-to-one tutoring and test prep classes. During the 2004-2005 school year, the YSI-TCCS partnership received valuable support from New Jersey After 3, a private, non-profit organization that is dedicated to expanding after-school opportunities for New Jersey's children. A \$240,000 grant from this organization made it possible to significantly expand the size and offerings of the after school care program YSI provides for TCCS students. The expanded program serves over 250 TCCS students. In addition to daily homework supervision, it provides enrichment activities such as creative writing, art and African drumming and dance classes. Additionally through the grant program, YSI has been able to significantly reduce the program fee, making this opportunity accessible to more TCCS families.

TCCS is the recent recipient of a two-year Artist-in-Education (AIE) residency grant of \$7,000 from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency with the National Endowment for the Arts. In addition to helping develop the TCCS music curriculum and heightening all faculty members' appreciation of the arts, one of the objectives of the grant program is to integrate music with math instruction at the seventh grade level to help students in their mastery of math skills as assessed on the Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment (GEPA), the state standardized test for eighth grade students. The AIE program is a matching grant program and represents a commitment on the part of the TCCS administration to establish the arts as a central part of the school curriculum.

Directions to Trenton Community Charter School

From the North:

- Take US-1 South toward Trenton.
- Take the Perry Street exit.
- Take the ramp toward Morrisville/Philadelphia.
- Turn left onto Perry Street.
- Perry Street becomes Bank Street after 0.3 miles.
- Bank Street becomes Passaic Street after 0.1 miles.

- Turn left onto Calhoun Street/Rev. S. Howard Woodson, Jr. Way and continue for 0.1 miles.
- Turn right onto West State Street.
- The school is located on the left-hand (south) side, one block after turning onto West State Street.

From the South:

- Take I-295 North toward Trenton.
- Merge onto NJ-29 North toward Trenton.
- Take the Calhoun Street exit.
- Make the first left onto West State Street.
- The school is located on the left-hand (south) side, one block after turning onto West State Street.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Union County Technology, Engineering, Architecture, Math & Science (TEAMS) Charter School

515-517 West Fourth Street
Plainfield, New Jersey 07060

908-754-9043

Fax 908-754-7790

www.info@ucteams.org

COUNTY:	Union
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Plainfield
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Mr. Clarence Beverly
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Ms. Sheila Thorpe
POPULATION SERVED:	Kindergarten to grade 8
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 2005
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	2005

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Bridging the Achievement Gap

The achievement gap between students from low socioeconomic status (SES) backgrounds and those from high (SES) remains wide because of a variety of factors. Research points out that "in 1998, approximately one fourth of Hispanic, African American and American Indians/Alaskan native students (26, 30 and 27 percent, respectively) completed advanced mathematic courses. A lack of math preparation in the earlier grades takes its toll later on" (NCES, 2003b). Not only is this true for minorities in math, but science as well and the next deficiency portends to be computer literacy. To create a real world, hands-on environment for students to thrive in math, science and technology in the early years, the Union County Technology, Engineering, Architecture, Mathematics and Science Charter School was conceived.

The Mission

The Union County Technology, Engineering, Architecture, Math and Science (TEAMS) Charter School is a small learning community where all students will achieve high academic standards by using the "built environment" as a learning laboratory. Students, in grades K-8, will gain the tools necessary for successful high school experiences, post-secondary education and the world of work. They will interact with professionals in the construction community and manifest by their experiential learning - "We are Community Builders".

Phase I - "We are Community Builders": Think Tank

"All learning is social. It is with our peers that we will ultimately find our voice and change our world. It is in community that our lives are transformed. Small groups can change the world" (Block, 2001). We began our transforming process with Phase I. In the initial phase of the charter school, the founders brainstormed, putting together the necessary concepts to make this school a reality. One of the major facets was to engage professionals around this theme-based community. When the "Think Tank Team" was invited and convened, the question that evoked the greatest and most passionate response was, "What experiences should K-8 students have that would motivate and inspire them to prepare for a career in your profession?" The resounding voices from the architect, the engineers, the inventor scientist, the scholar from higher education, the carpenter teacher, the technology facilitator, the theologian from the church, the computer technologist, the community members, parents and educators all replied: "Take students beyond the

academics and let them see the integration and application of subject matter and experience the dynamics and synergism inherent in building new constructions. In addition, allow them to visit current structures, the "built environment" and learn through real-world problem solving and critical thinking." This began the community building process, the foundational underpinning of the UC TEAMS Charter School.

Phase II – "We are Community Builders": Focus on Plainfield, NJ – Union County

This K-8 school launches a novel concept design; therefore, Plainfield in Union County was a natural flow in the second phase. Plainfield is a small suburban, yet urban community in Union County with tree-lined streets, well designed and built single and multiple family dwellings. The historicity of its Victorian structures, as well as the building revitalization and renewal projects in the county, capture the essence of a rich learning environment. Plainfield and vicinity are

pregnant with opportunities as a learning laboratory. From the Drake House Museum to Swain Gallery, historical churches and new edifices, the list is extraordinary. These constructions of the "built environment" and new constructions being raised daily, provide the mortar for this educational plan.

Foundationally, students in Plainfield are developing their academic knowledge as exhibited by performances on district-wide and state assessments. While they have not yet reached the pinnacle, progress is evident. Plainfield's data, released in the spring of 2004, indicates a 19% gain in mathematics scores, from 35.5% to 54.4%; and improved literacy scores by 7%, from 68.4% to 75.5% in the K-5 elementary schools. Middle school students' scores advanced in literacy by 11% and in math by 15%.

Furthermore, the UC TEAMS Charter School is designed for contiguous grades K-8. The maintaining of students at one site for all grades responds to the traditional schooling of children in pre-high school. Research states that parental involvement is increased in these environments and students achieve more (NCES, 2001).

Finally, the UC TEAMS Charter School will capitalize on Plainfield's forward progress by advancing students academic success with the creation of a small learning community that is theme-based and utilizes experiential learning as the framework to support the curriculum, grades K-8.

Phase III - "We are Community Builders": Technology, Engineering, Architecture, Math and Science (TEAMS).

The Dale Carnegie Cone of experience illustrates vividly how learning is mastered. "Students will remember only 10-20% of what they read, 20-30% of what they hear, 40-60% of that which is represented by pictures and words, 70% of that represented by reading, hearing and seeing a moving picture; however students will learn and remember 90% and more, of that which they experience" (Dale Carnegie, 1977). These data are still relevant for 21st century learning. All students in the UC TEAMS Charter School will be immersed in the theme, "We are a Community of Builders" by engaging professionals in the designated community and surrounding vicinity. Curriculum integration will be achieved in collaboration with the school community, business community, construction trade community, engineers, architects, historical societies, museums and curriculum developers. All aspects of the NJCCCS will be taught with a focus on math, science, and integrated technology as the UC TEAMS Charter School will produce students who exhibit the following characteristics:

- Read fluently, think critically and write with understanding
- Are academically competent
- Interact with subject matter in a real world environment.
- Know how and desire to lead
- Manage and resolve conflict in a responsible way
- Exhibit pride in their community via knowledge of new constructions and its "built environment"
- Work and learn in diverse teams to create community

With the support of the New Jersey Department of Education, the Union County TEAMS Charter School will transform our community as we learn about it through its people and buildings. "We are Community Builders."

Addendum:

Explanation of the "Built Environment"

The "built environment" is a phrase coined by CUBE, Center for the Understanding of the Built Environment, to describe historical buildings, current construction, and even future structural designs.

According to CUBE, the "built environment" should be a reflection of a multitude of different cultural facets, including the interrelationships between art, architecture, and design.

Directions to Union County TEAMS

From the New Jersey North and South:

Take the New Jersey Turnpike South to Exit 10. Follow the signs for 1-287 North and continue to Exit 4 (Durham Avenue/South Plainfield). At the end of the ramp, bear right at the traffic light onto Durham Avenue. Continue through one traffic light, at the second light bear right onto Durham Avenue overpass which changes to Hamilton Boulevard. Remain on Hamilton Blvd for approximately one mile. Continue through two traffic lights and immediately bear left onto the overpass, which changes to Lakeview Avenue. Lakeview Avenue will then change into Plainfield Avenue. Continue to the second traffic light and make a right onto the continuation of Plainfield Avenue. Continue on Plainfield Avenue (approximately one mile) and make a right at the second traffic light, which will be West Seventh Street. Go one block and make a left onto Liberty Street. Go another three blocks and make a left onto Fourth Street. Union County TEAMS will be the first building on your left.

From the GardenStateParkway:

Take the Garden State Parkway South to Exit 142 (Route 78 West). Continue on 78 West to Exit 40 "The Plainfields." At the end of the exit ramp, make a left onto Hillcrest Road (531 South) and continue to the end. Make a right on to Valley Road and follow signs for 531 South (Watchung Circle). Immediately bear left, following the sign for North Plainfield/531 South. Go left around the circle following the signs for North Plainfield, then bear right onto Somerset Street. Go approximately one mile until you reach a sign for "The Plainfields" where you will bear left onto the overpass. At the end of the overpass, make a left at the sign for "The Plainfields" (this will be a continuation of Somerset Street). Continue for approximately 1/4 mile, where Somerset Street will turn into Park Avenue. Proceed three blocks and make a right onto West Fourth Street. Union County TEAMS is located approximately three and 1/2 blocks on the left side of the street.

From Route 1 North or South:

Take the Plainfield Avenue exit. At the first stop sign, make a right onto Plainfield Avenue (529 North). After approximately two miles, Plainfield Avenue will become Stelton Road. After approximately 5 miles, Stelton Road becomes Washington Avenue. Continue on Washington Avenue for approximately 6.5 miles and make a right onto West Seventh Street. Go through four traffic lights and make a left turn onto Liberty Street. Proceed three blocks and turn left on to West Fourth Street. Union County TEAMS is the first building on your left

From Interstate 287:

Take 287 South to Exit 6 and bear right onto Washington Avenue. Make a left at the second light (Washington Avenue) following signs for Route 529 North. At the third light make a right onto West Seventh Street. Go approximately 2.5 miles and make a left onto Liberty Street then, a left onto West Fourth Street. Union County TEAMS will be on your left.

Parking is available on the street around the church and in the church parking lot located on the corner of Plainfield Avenue and Third Street.

Use the Fifth Street or Liberty Street entrance during the regular school day from 8:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Unity Charter School
340 Speedwell Avenue
Morristown, New Jersey 07960
973-292-1808
Fax 973-267-9288
charles_knopf@hotmail.com
www.unity-nj.org

COUNTY:	Morris
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Morristown
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Mr. Frank Arcoleo
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Dr. Char Stanko
POPULATION SERVED:	Kindergarten to grade 8
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1997
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1998

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The mission of Unity Charter School is *"to teach the importance of protecting and improving the environment by educating our students on the principles of sustainability, ecology, and diversity in a way that celebrates and honors this planet and all its inhabitants."* At Unity, we define sustainability in the following ways:

- a state in which all humans, now and in the future, can meet the present needs with the limits of what nature and human creativity can provide and without compromising human and environmental health somewhere else or at some later time
- an environment capable of being maintained or kept in existence over a period of time
- the harvesting or using of a resource so that the resource is not depleted or permanently damaged

At Unity, we teach the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards through an inquiry into sustainability, that is, how to meet the needs of the present, while enhancing the ability of future generations to meet their needs. We explore the effects of the activities of humans on the ecosystem, and on each other, so we can look to develop means to meet the needs of all people, while restoring and sustaining our ecosystem.

We believe that knowledge does not fall neatly into separate categories or disciplines. While specialization can be useful, the world can best be viewed as a whole with various branches of knowledge supporting each other. As much as possible, teaching is delivered within a context of themes related to sustainability and the relevance of this knowledge to the students' lives.

Our Democratic Governance system provides each member of the community with a voice in the decision-making and governing process of the school. The community may participate in shaping important decisions through three governing bodies: the Board of Trustees, the Assembly, and the School Meeting.

Students are grouped in learning groups of different ages, allowing for more flexibility in student's learning. For instance, the curriculum is not limited to the students' chronological age. Factors including social and emotional intelligence can better be

addressed with multi-age groupings. In addition, more opportunities are available for students to take the role of teacher in a multi-age setting.

Each student is recognized as being unique. Based on this understanding, the staff, in collaboration with students and their parents, develop person learning plans. Students will have the opportunity to realize their full potential as their unique learning styles, multiple intelligences, strengths, challenges, academic passions, and individual interests are identified, assessed, and supported.

Students are evaluated on an ongoing basis to ensure that they are learning the objectives, which are stated in each course of study. A variety of assessment tools, such as; quizzes, tests, projects, rubric based assignments, and portfolios are used to provide a complete picture of what the student has learned. We communicate student achievement through Growth Reports that contain information about the skills and content areas taught during each reporting period, the student's performance in each area and teacher comments regarding the student's social and emotional development.

Unity takes pride in the lunches that are served to our students. On the whole, we serve a largely organically grown and minimally processed plant-based school lunch. Lunches are served on ceramic plates using metal utensils, with beverages served in glasses. Tables are set with freshly laundered cloth coverings and napkins. The entire lunch process produces minimal waste. The children scrape leftovers into a compost bucket for later use in the school's organic garden.

The faculty, staff, and administration desire to give every child the opportunity to attend school in an environment that is conducive to learning. We believe that a child will conduct themselves appropriately in school when a positive approach toward discipline is emphasized. Our goal is for the students to understand how their behavior impacts on themselves and others and to take responsibility for their behavior. We utilize "I messages", class meetings, and peer mediation to achieve this end.

The educational philosophy at Unity is based upon the identification of each child's strengths and to then tailor the instructional program to assist each student to develop socially, emotionally, and academically. The staff at Unity strives to know each child's abilities and we work collectively to ensure that we provide each child with a personalized learning experience. We encourage all students to take advantage of all that we have to offer, and recommend that students approach each day as a new opportunity to grow from past experiences and to embrace new challenges.

Directions to Unity Charter School

From Route 80 (East or West):

Take Exit 42 - Parsippany/Morris Plains. Follow signs for Route 202 South to Morris Plains. Go South on Littleton Road/Route 202 for about two miles. At the sixth light you will reach Route 10, drive through the intersection. After three more lights, about 1.5 miles, you will see the Route 53 junction on the Right and the Morris Plains train station on the Left as you pass under trestle. BEAR LEFT at next light onto Speedwell Avenue/Route 202. Drive past three more lights (about a mile), and just after passing Third light, take your second RIGHT onto Ames Place. School driveway is about 100 yards up on left side.

From Route 287 South:

Take Exit 36 - County Road 510/Morris/Lafayette/Ridgedale Avenues. Follow signs to immediate Right for Ridgedale Avenue. Turn RIGHT onto Ridgedale. See directions below to continue.

From Route 287 North:

Take Exit 36B - Lafayette Avenue. You will need to get over to extreme Right lane when you get off exit ramp. Make a RIGHT turn at the first light onto Ridgedale Avenue. Once on Ridgedale Avenue, after the second light turn LEFT onto Hanover Avenue (will see an Agway Store on Left corner). Continue straight on Hanover Avenue until the third light. Turn LEFT onto Speedwell Avenue/Route 202. Go through one more light before taking the second RIGHT onto Ames Place. Unity driveway is about 100 yards up on Left side.

From Morristown Green:

Take Speedwell Avenue/Route 202 North out of Morristown traveling toward Morris Plains. After passing the Headquarters Plaza on your right, you will drive through three lights, traveling just under a mile. When you see the Village of Olde Forge East Apartments on your right, take your next LEFT onto Ames Place. Unity driveway is about 100 yards up on Left side.

From Route 10 (East or West):

Follow signs for Morris Plains/Morristown/Route 202.

From Route 10 West:

BEAR RIGHT at sign for above (will pass Route 187 junction, then the Hilton complex before you see sign). Make a LEFT at end of jughandle, drive through intersection of Route 10, and continue straight on Route 202 South.

From Route 10 East:

Turn RIGHT following sign for above just after you pass the shopping center on right (Caldor's, ShopRite). Once on 202 South, you will pass through three lights, about 1.5 miles, before you see the Route 53 junction on your right and the Morris Plains train station on the left as you pass under the trestle. BEAR LEFT at next light onto Speedwell Avenue/Route 202. Drive past three more lights (about a mile), and just after passing the third light, take your second RIGHT onto Ames Place. Unity driveway is about 100 yards up on Left side.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

University Academy Charter High School

275 West Side Avenue

Jersey City, New Jersey 07305-1597

201-200-3200

Fax 201-200-3262

www.njcu.edu/programs/uachs

COUNTY:	Hudson
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Jersey City
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Mr. Ruddys Andrade
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Ms. Linda Green
POPULATION SERVED:	Grades 9-12
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 2001
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	2002

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The University Academy Charter High School's mission is to provide an academic environment that will aid students in developing a desire for knowledge and a passion for societal contribution. Our philosophy emphasizes experiential and service learning. We recognize the importance of knowledge, mastering and utilizing technology available in this complex world, and stress the development of skills in research, communication, analysis of ideas, and cultivation of interpersonal skills. A reflection of this philosophy is evident in the stimulating and rigorous curriculum and additional programs provided by the school.

Utilizing resources from New Jersey City University, the school represents a path toward opportunity for an economically struggling urban constituency. The school's educational approach incorporates a rigorous, thematically-based core content curriculum, but goes beyond academic objectives to address issues of character, living a productive life, contributing to society, and finding a sense of purpose and fulfillment through meaningful activities. Additional programs such as: opportunities to attend appropriate university classes, field trips, community service projects, tutoring programs, student government, and community civic activities, are designed to enhance the educational experience for younger people, who must work and live in an increasingly competitive and technology-based society.

Directions to University Academy Charter High School

From Manhattan:

Take either the No. 99S or the No. 55 bus from Port Authority Bus Terminal directly to the University. Or take the Path subway to Journal Square and follow the directions below.

From PATH Terminal at Journal Square:

Board the No. 80 Newark Avenue/Gates Avenue bus and get off at Audubon and West Side Avenue, walk to 275 West Side Avenue.

From Staten Island:

Take the No. 55 bus directly to the University's main entrance and walk down to UACHS 275 West Side Avenue.

From NJ Turnpike:

Take the NJ Turnpike to Exit 15E. Follow signs after tollbooth to Routes 1 & 9 North (Truck Route). You'll go over two bridges. Stay on your right and continue through the traffic light. Turn right at the first traffic light after the McDonald's (right-hand side) onto West Side Avenue. UACHS is 12 blocks down on the right-hand side.

From Routes 78, 1 and 9:

Take Route 78 East to Routes 1 & 9 North. When 1 & 9 split, stay to the right (Truck Route North). Do not go onto the Pulaski Skyway.

Take 1 & 9 over two bridges. Stay on your right and continue through the traffic light. Turn right at the first traffic light after the McDonald's (right-hand side) onto West Side Avenue. UACHS is 12 blocks down on the right-hand side.

From Garden State Parkway (Northbound):

Take the Parkway North to Exit 140 (Route 22 East). Take Route 22 East to Route 1 & 9 North (Truck Route). You'll go over two bridges. Stay on your right and continue through the traffic light. Turn right at the first traffic light after the McDonald's (right-hand side) onto West Side Avenue. UACHS is 12 blocks down on the right-hand side.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

The Village Charter School

101 Sullivan Way
Trenton, New Jersey 08628
609-695-0110
Fax 609-695-1880
www.villagecharter.org

COUNTY:	Mercer
DISTRICT/REGION OF RESIDENCE:	Trenton
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT:	Mr. Stephen L. Kitts
SCHOOL LEAD PERSON:	Dr. Dorian L. Dorsey
POPULATION SERVED:	Kindergarten to grade 8
ORIGINAL CHARTER DATE:	January 1998
YEAR SCHOOL OPENED	1999

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Village Charter School is committed to providing a strong academic foundation in an atmosphere where cooperative and collaborative efforts bring about a genuine understanding and respect for all. Our goal is to create a child-centered community of active learners where each child can and will succeed in ways that reflect his or her own unique attributes and interests.

The curriculum of the Village Charter School was specifically designed to align with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards. The curriculum includes language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, visual arts, world languages, health, physical education/safety, music and computer technology. Our curriculum recognizes that each child learns differently and uses a variety of strengths at different times in her/his development. Our goal is to create a learning environment that is responsive to each child's development and learning process. Therefore, our teachers use a variety of methods in their instruction.

We are constantly striving for excellence; therefore we have implemented a professional development plan in order to provide our teachers with ongoing training in effective instructional practices in all academic content area with emphasis on reading and math instruction.

The mission of The Village Charter School is to develop a community of learners focused on stimulating and building upon each student's intellect, social skills, and character. This comprehensive approach to quality education will prepare students to become responsible citizens and is reflected in our actual progress toward meeting both academic and non-academic goals. The Village Charter School children will develop critical thinking skills, learn to communicate effectively, feel a sense of well-being and live responsibly in an atmosphere that promotes tolerance and empathy for others.

Directions to Village Charter School

From New Jersey Turnpike:

Take the Rt. 195 Westbound Exit towards Trenton.

Continue on Rt. 195 until the end and bear left on to Route 29 North/Lambertville.

Go through tunnel and keep straight on Rt. 29 North for approximately 3 miles.

Make a right onto Sullivan Way (a Sunoco gas station will be on corner).

Continue on Sullivan Way around the bend to the left.

The Village Charter School will be on your left across the street from the hospital.

From Garden State Parkway:

See above directions.

From Route 295:

See above directions.

Office of Vocational-Technical, Career and Innovative Programs CHARTER SCHOOLS

On January 11, 1996 *The Charter School Program Act of 1995* was signed into law enabling the creation of new types of schools which provide parents and students with a variety of educational options. The primary purpose of charter schools is to stimulate reform in the public school system. In 1997, the first group of charter schools was approved by the New Jersey Department of Education.

New Jersey became the 20th state to allow for the establishment of charter schools. During the implementation of the legislation, the State Department of Education received 238 charter school applications. Currently there are 59 approved charter schools in 15 counties in the state. There are 51 charter schools operating during the 2005-06 school year serving approximately 15,000 students. An additional four charter schools are scheduled to open in September 2006 and four are scheduled to open in September 2007.

New Jersey's charter school program represents one strategy in a broader effort to improve student achievement. Charter schools hold the promise of creating a new kind of publicly funded school, breaking the traditional mold in an effort to help children achieve at higher levels. The charter school program enables teachers, parents, community leaders, private entities and institutions of higher education to take the lead in designing public schools that will provide unique and innovative approaches toward educational excellence and equity.

Definition

A charter school is a public school that:

- ◆ has a charter granted by the Commissioner of Education;
- ◆ operates independently of a district board(s) of education;
- ◆ is managed by a board of trustees deemed to be public agents authorized by the State Board of Education to supervise and control the school; and
- ◆ is open to all students.

Establishment and Eligibility

A charter school can be established by teachers, parents with children attending the schools of the district board(s) of education or a combination of teachers and parents. An institution of higher education or a private entity located within the state, in conjunction with teachers and parents with children attending the schools of the district board(s) of education, may establish a charter school. However, a private entity cannot constitute a majority of the board of trustees of a charter school, cannot realize a net profit from operating a charter school and cannot use the name of the entity in the name of a charter school. A private or parochial school is not eligible for charter school status. A charter school cannot charge tuition. All charter schools must follow the *New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards* and participate in the state assessments.

Conversion

Under the Charter School Act, a currently existing public school is eligible to become a charter school if the following criteria are met:

- ◆ 51% of the teaching staff in the school signs a petition in support of the school becoming a charter school; and
- ◆ 51% of the parents or guardians of pupils attending that public school sign a petition in support of the school becoming a charter school.

Admissions

A charter school must be open to all students on a space-available basis and cannot discriminate in its admissions policies and practices. A charter school, to the maximum extent practical, must seek the enrollment of a cross section of the community including racial and academic factors. Students who reside in the district of residence or region of residence in which a charter school is established must be given preference in enrollment. If a charter school receives more applications than spaces available, the charter school must use a random selection process to determine which students will be admitted. If space permits and the charter allows, a charter school can then enroll non-resident students.

Accountability

The Department of Education oversees and formally evaluates all charter schools on a regular basis. The accountability measures include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Preparedness process;
- ◆ Submission of an annual report;
- ◆ Submission of an annual financial audit;
- ◆ Program Review process;
- ◆ Charter Renewal process; and
- ◆ Post-Renewal process.

The Commissioner may grant a renewal of a charter for a five-year period following the initial four-year charter. The *Charter School Program Act* also authorizes the Commissioner to renew or revoke a school's charter or place a charter school on probationary status to allow the implementation of a remedial plan upon a finding that a charter school is not operating in compliance with its charter, statutes or regulations.

Current Statistics

- ◆ As of January 2006, there are 59 approved charter schools in New Jersey. Fifty-one are operational; four are scheduled to open in September 2006 and four are scheduled to open in September 2007.
- ◆ As of September 2005, New Jersey's charter schools are serving over 15,000 students in pre-kindergarten through grade 12.

- ◆ The projected 2004-05 kindergarten enrollment in New Jersey charter schools is over 900 students.
- ◆ Fourteen counties have approved charter schools.
- ◆ All of New Jersey's charter schools are newly created. There are no charter schools that have been converted from other public schools.
- ◆ The average enrollment in a charter school is 193 students.
- ◆ The average class size of charter schools is 17 students.
- ◆ The average school year for charter schools is 186 days.
- ◆ The average length of the school day in charter schools is slightly over seven hours; students are engaged in instruction for an average of slightly over six hours.

Individual Charter Schools

For additional information on a specific charter school, please visit our web site at: www.state.nj.us/education and look under "Charter Schools." Parents are encouraged to contact individual charter schools for more information on the program and enrollment.

New Jersey Department of Education

100 River View Plaza, Route 29

P.O. Box 500

Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

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