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MISSION

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The mission of Hope Charter School is twofold. First, it is our desire to provide an academic environment in which each child will thrive and succeed, regardless of the individual's learning style and academic strengths or weaknesses, thereby enabling each child to have the opportunity to reach his or her full potential. Second, we want to provide an inclu-

sion model for autistic children that would allow a gradual transition from the ESE classroom to a regular education classroom, thus offering the same opportunity for them to reach their full potential.

The State of Florida requires that a Charter School be unique, offering an education that raises a higher standard and provides learning oppor-

tunities not offered in the regular public school setting. Hope Charter School is committed to offering a program that will allow each child to grow academically, socially, physically and emotionally. A variety of innovations will be used to accomplish these goals.

VISION

Our vision is to create a learning environment that is safe, excellent, interesting and motivating. We want it to be challenging and affirming. A small, intimate atmosphere will encourage friendship, partnership and understanding among all the participants, whether teachers, students, parents, or community volunteers. Children will learn to value each other based on nothing more than that each person is worthy of being valued, and will em-

brace the uniqueness each brings to the school. We believe that Hope Charter School will become known for all that is accomplished in the lives of its students because lives will be changed as a result of their experience at Hope.

We would like to see community businesses partner with the school to accomplish great things in the lives of the students because the businesses are aware of the fact that making an invest-

ment in the students truly is an investment in their own future.

We have a dream of being an instrument of peace and reconciliation among the various ethnic groups in our community so that a generation from now there will be common ground where division once abounded. We have a desire to see Hope Charter School truly become a beacon of hope in this community.

Hope Charter School admits students regardless of race, color, creed, national origin or religious preference.

PURPOSE

- a) To teach with each student's learning style in mind. We will evaluate each student's modality to determine whether it is visual, auditory, kinesthetic or a combination, and plan lessons accordingly.
- b) To discover each child's academic strengths and weaknesses. We will evaluate each student upon entrance into our program. An educational plan will be devised for each child that takes into account individual needs. Groupings may be more fluid than grade level for some academic areas and projects.
- c) To allow each child to progress as far as their academic ability will take them in their areas of strength and show at least 80% comprehension in all other academic areas. We will use the unit method of teaching for most subjects. Each unit created will include a variety of learning activities geared toward each style of learning. Also, each unit will provide a continuum of projects and assignments so that there will be a base requirement for the 80% criterion, and the availability of enrichment as well so that each child will be challenged to excel.
- d) To encourage character development. Each month a character trait will be emphasized and incorporated into the units taught, so that practical application of concepts such as persistence (Thomas Edison and the light bulb), diligence (George Washington Carver and the Tuskegee Institute), and so on, will be taught.
- e) To help children develop in emotional and social areas. Applied Behavioral Analysis will be utilized where necessary to devise individual behavior plans that would allow for growth and success in behavior, anger management, peer interactions, responses to authority and skill acquisition.
- f) To encourage an environment of health, fitness and nutrition. Healthy eating will be required and an individualized nutrition and physical activity plan will be developed and encouraged whenever necessary. Each child will be encouraged to personalize these ideals in order to help him/her develop lifelong good health habits. Use of EEG-biofeedback and the Smart Moves program will be incorporated for the purpose of fine-tuning focus and building neuro-pathways.
- g) To encourage parent involvement and a partnership between the home and the school. A home visit will be conducted prior to the first day of school so that the home environment will be taken into account when evaluating the student's abilities and developing an individual learning program. An atmosphere of professionalism and advocacy for the child between teacher and parents will be expected. Support for the family system will be provided through monthly parent meetings where parents will be encouraged in the areas of academics, behavior, nutrition and fitness, parenting, community resources for their child and family counseling referrals if desired.
- h) To provide a positive learning environment which will enhance the learning experience and help the student develop a good self-concept and a sense of personal worth. Teachers will model trust in the authority structure, belief in one's abilities and a sense of purpose in life. These qualities will be encouraged in the children as well. We expect our students will develop the ability to be good citizens in their community, will be friendly classmates, productive and loving member of their family and, eventually, successful members of society.
- i) Hope children will have the opportunity to become peer mentors for Hope's autistic students, becoming involved in friendships that will be mutually beneficial.

A registration form for each student must be completed and submitted to Hope Charter School to begin the enrollment process.