

Hoboken Charter School

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A FREE PUBLIC SCHOOL



Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade

The Hoboken Charter School is a public school and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, physical or intellectual ability in the administration of its educational policies or application procedures.

Why HCS?

Individualized Education

Service Learning

Professional and Compassionate Staff

Celebration of Creativity

Warm, Supportive K-12 Environment

Diversity

Rigorous Academics

Arts Literacy

Low Teacher-Student Ratio
(Two teachers per classroom, K-8)

Active Citizenship

Strong Leadership

Innovative Programs

Differentiated Instruction

Effective Special Education Programs

Accountability

Parent Participation and Involvement

AVID, 9-12

Afterschool Program

National Charter School of the Year



*Deirdra Grode, Co-Director/Principal K-8
Ria Grosvenor, Co-Director/Principal 9-12*

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Hoboken Charter School reflects our belief that a successful educational experience can only take place when attention is given to the development of the whole child -- a break with the traditional concept of schooling. We envision a community composed of learners of all ages that fosters a spirit of supportive interdependence, where individuals can grow in a nurturing, compassionate environment that reflects the history and diversity of the larger Hoboken community.

The four cornerstones of the Hoboken Charter School -- academic, artistic, personal, and civic -- are unified by two basic educational practices: learner-centered education and service learning. A learner-centered school is a place where teachers and students are committed to one another and share collectively in the school vision. Service learning provides students with a way to apply what they have learned in school in meaningful ways within their community.

For more information visit our web site:
www.hobokencs.org

Service Learning Highlights

The March on Washington Street:

Representatives from Hoboken clergy and Hoboken schools-public, private, charter and parochial-march from Church Square Park to Hoboken City Hall to spread Dr. King's call to service and to encourage serving the community. This year's theme is "Making Friends of Our Enemies" and will focus on building an understanding of Middle Eastern cultures and promoting anti-bullying campaigns in addition to reinforcing the history of the Civil Rights Movement.

New Jersey Empty Bowls Luncheon:

Students at HCS raise money while fostering awareness about the important work of the Hoboken Shelter. HCS Fourth graders take charge of planning and logistics for the Empty Bowls fundraiser. Following research and interviews on the topics of hunger and homelessness, students write letters to the editor, design and sell tickets and make oral presentations to their classmates on the important work of those who help to fight hunger in our society. This year's theme is "1 in 50" and speaks to the issue of homeless children in America.

Pennies for Patients:

A school-wide drive has been initiated for the NJ Lymphoma and Leukemia Society to honor former HCS teacher Leslie Smith who died from the disease. Last year, students also wrote and illustrated a children's book entitled *Ms. Smith's Sunshine Smile* that is currently being reviewed for commercial publication to further honor their former teacher.

Make a Difference Day:

Make a Difference Day casts a wide net upon a vast array of service learning projects that are developed individually by each classroom school-wide. These projects are selected and executed by students thus supporting their passions and interests. This year's projects range from lessons on aging while supporting the elderly to studies of animal husbandry via the support of local animal placement coalitions. This year's theme is Education = Power and will address via student-driven projects how education makes a difference in all of our lives. This message will be further reinforced by a guest speaker/artist who was one of the Lost Boys of Sudan.

Arts and Service Learning:

Our service learning program is receiving national recognition. The program is currently featured on the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation website and in the *NY Times*. In past years, the arts have been used to address relief efforts and help re-house those displaced by Hurricane Katrina and by earthquakes in Java. A current focus is the *UBUNTU* program which addresses the world water crisis as students work in partnership with H2O for Life. Through arts-based projects, they will bring clean water to a community in Uganda. Other arts-based courses that have service angles include *Monkey Business* which works in tandem with the Dian Fossey Foundation and the Save the Chimps animal sanctuary. Our own *AGGG!!! (Art of Greater Gravity and Giving)* organization was originally founded by our school-wide Service Learning Director, SK Duff, as an after school program in 2005 and has since become a part of the in-school curriculum. The organization has also been adopted by the Boys and Girls Clubs and over thirty schools across America as a model service learning program.

Reading Buddies:

Students from the middle school get together weekly with reading buddies from the lower grades. This partnership reinforces literacy skills in both younger and older peers. Students reflect on the project through their individual feedback and through discussions during class meeting times.

Noteworthy Accomplishments:

- HCS was among the first group of schools in New Jersey to be chartered.
- HCS sponsors the annual city-wide Martin Luther King Day March in January. An annual “Sing Out for Justice” concert brings students together with local artists and musicians in celebrating the values of freedom and justice.
- AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is a program used in our high school. AVID student selection focuses on students in the middle (2.0 to 3.5 G.P.A. as one indicator) with academic potential, who would benefit from AVID support to improve their academic record and begin college preparation.
- A summary of the HCS NJASK test scores for grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 has revealed that all grade levels have met the NCLB criteria for adequate yearly progress (AYP).
- Terra Nova testing is administered for grades K, 1 & 2, and the analysis of the results reveal that our students are scoring at least one year above grade level. Students in grades 9 & 10 are scoring at or above grade level.
- HCS co-sponsors with All Saints Episcopal Day School the annual Empty Bowls Lunch to benefit The Hoboken Shelter. In 2008 and 2009, the event raised \$10,000.
- In 2006, five students from HCS attended the National Service Learning Conference in Philadelphia. One HCS student was chosen as a panelist to represent schools in NJ and Philadelphia on a “Youth Organized for Disaster Action” panel.
- Students from HCS helped to organize an auction of student-created “Outsider Art” to benefit artists displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Auction proceeds of close to \$5,000 were forwarded to four artists whose work the students explored and who were displaced by the hurricane.
- HCS high school students partnered with The September School in Boulder, Colorado to explore the effects of September 11, 2001. Students from Boulder stayed with HCS families; our students traveled to Boulder to visit The September School.
- HCS was chosen by the Partnership for After-School Education (PASE) to be the site of an innovative after-school Learning Lab for Middle School students, the first PASE site in New Jersey. The Learning Lab continues, now as a partnership with the Hoboken Board of Education’s 21st Century Program and the Jubilee Center for Family Life.



A K-12 community of learners, the Hoboken Charter School, seeks to develop the academic, artistic, personal, and civic growth of all 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 holds “Service Learning” as its central theme and mission. Students 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 fostering this approach, the Hoboken Charter School has developed relationships with a wide variety of individuals and groups within the community.

We are deeply committed to being a school whose members feel welcome and are invested in the development of all.

Hoboken Charter School believes deeply in its commitment to learner-centered education, service learning, academic rigor, character education and the arts and works toward personal growth of all community members. Our diverse multi-age setting allows for an academically intense environment in a fully inclusive setting.