

Elysian

Charter School of Hoboken

A Positively Different
Public School



MISSION:

To build an active community of lifelong learners, to provide a safe and nurturing environment, and to educate each and every child to his or her fullest potential.



The Elysian Charter School is a free (K-8) public school. Admission is by public lottery with preference given to Hoboken residents. Elysian charges no tuition.



CULTURE

PHILOSOPHY

Our goal at Elysian Charter School is to educate and inspire children to become curious, lifelong learners who are academically prepared to be successful in whatever future endeavor they choose. We hope that children will develop an appreciation for the arts and culture, the diversity of people of the world, and will come to understand the importance of community. Every child possesses individual strengths. At Elysian, we seek to identify and focus on those strengths to maximize student growth and achievement.

Elysian's approach to learning, teaching and community is based on many of the philosophies taught in the tradition of hands-on and cooperative learning. Our philosophy leads us to teach in a manner that is child-centered, holistic, progressive and academically rigorous. At Elysian, we create an interpersonal environment that brings together academic rigor and a joy for learning.

HOW DO WE DO THIS?

- Small classes of 16 students (two classes per grade).
- There is whole group instruction, small group instruction and individual instruction in each class, creating opportunities for all types of learners.
- Conversation and discussion are supported as an essential part of developing language skills, sharing ideas and community building. Children are encouraged to talk about what they are learning and give each other feedback.
- Students are encouraged to participate without being afraid of making mistakes. We expect children to be responsible and work hard. We strive to teach our students to be kind and respectful to one another.
- Enthusiasm for learning is sparked by participation in a wide array of hands-on, project-based activities. With guidance, students choose their writing topics, the books they read and some of the topics they study.

A **charter school** is a **free** public school operated under a charter granted by the State Commissioner of Education.

The school is operated independent of the municipality's Board of Education, and has its own Board of Trustees who are responsible for the operation of the school. Tax funds pay to operate the school.

ELYSIAN STAFF

Elysian has a very experienced and highly-educated staff of teachers who love children. Our teachers are dynamic, creative, and dedicated. We attract and retain strong teachers and have low turnover rates among our employees. All classroom teachers and professional support staff hold the appropriate New Jersey state certifications.

Our teachers engage in a great deal of collaboration across all levels of the school, so that the school experience is a coordinated and unified one from Kindergarten through 8th grade.

"One of Elysian's unique strengths is its sense of community. Another is its small, manageable size. Both of these features contribute to making Elysian's culture truly that of a family."

— Elysian parent



CURRICULUM

Elysian can seem different particularly to parents who spent most of their school years at a desk. When you tour the school you may notice that — even within the same classroom — the children's work doesn't all look alike. You may notice that the children move around their classrooms a great deal. You may wonder where the traditional desks, textbooks and worksheets are.

Elysian students learn through participation and exploration, which can be hard to see right away. But if you look around the school, you will see evidence of academic strength everywhere — in writing samples posted on walls, the science journals students keep, the math exercises that enable kids to learn how to get to the right answers and the creative art projects decorating the hallways.

FEATURES OF OUR CORE CURRICULUM

- Writing workshop
- Reading workshop
- Hands-on math following the T.E.R.C. program
- Project-based Social Studies and Science
- Class presentations in Microsoft PowerPoint and other Microsoft Office Applications
- Spanish instruction
- Art instruction, full and half classes
- Music instruction in full and half classes
- Physical and Health Education
- Advanced studies in Middle School
- Full range of special education support services in an inclusive setting

But that's not all. Elysian also offers:

THE ARTS

- African Dance Residency
- School Chorus (gr. 3-6 by audition)
- Annual School Play (gr. 3-8 by audition)
- Arts to Grow Theater Residency
- Partnership with New Victory Theater in NYC
- Class Video Production and Award-Winning Documentary Projects
- Song Writing for All Grades
- Middle School Rock Band
- Student Art Exhibits in the Community
- Hoboken Historical Museum Art Projects

TRIPS

Grades 4-8 participate in annual environmental education and team building excursions, both overnight and day trips. Students in grades K-3 participate in a variety of local trips.



Elysian's curriculum meets the required New Jersey State Standards and grows directly out of the work created by teachers who collaborate on a regular basis to determine how to best meet the needs of the children in their classes.

Students in charter schools are required to participate in all Statewide Achievement Testing programs. Elysian achieves the annual yearly progress goals as set forth by the Federal Government's standardized test score requirements.

MIDDLE SCHOOL grades 7-8

At a time when early adolescents need the reassurance of strong, consistent teachers, positive peer relationships, and a motivating, rigorous curriculum, Elysian provides the opportunity for its middle school students to grow and flourish in an academic and creative environment. Elysian's middle school program leads to self-discipline, academic, social and emotional growth, and the ability to make good choices as our students move on to high school and beyond. Our students learn to utilize the latest technologies in the completion of classroom assignments, independent projects, and extra-curricular activities including moviemaking and music production in Elysian's award-winning media lab. Students learn to employ a variety of software applications in the completion of their class work and presentations, with computer workstations in each classroom.





COMMUNITY

The Elysian community of children, parents, staff and friends, is closely-knit and enthusiastically active in cultivating an environment in which everyone feels welcome and appreciated. We believe that educating children is a collaborative effort.

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY EVENTS

At Elysian we believe that a strong community spirit can help make the difference in educating our children to their fullest potential. Many of our annual events include ways for parents to become involved on a daily basis:

- Parent Volunteers in the Classroom
- School-wide Community Meetings
- Annual Kuumba Day Celebration
- Active Parent-Teacher-Student Organization
- After-school Volunteer Clubs
- Annual Fundraising Auction, Dinner & Dance
- Annual Halloween Party, Community Supper and School Picnic

CO-ED ATHLETICS/TEAMS

- Basketball
- Track
- Flag football
- Flag rugby
- Annual sports awards dinner

OTHER SERVICES AND OFFERINGS

- Chess Club
- Volunteer After-school Enrichment Clubs
- Afternoon/After-school Tutoring
- 7:30 am Early Morning Drop-off
- After-school Program until 6:00 pm
- Hot Lunch Program (including free and reduced price lunches)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Individual classes engage in various service projects and charity events
- School-wide food drives for the local food pantry and shelter
- School community holiday toy drive
- Reading buddies: older students work with younger students

"At Elysian, we have found the balance between academic rigor, and a warm, friendly, and relaxed environment in which children can learn and thrive. We hope that we instill in children good strong values and a desire to learn that will help them become outstanding and contributing members of their local and global community."

— Carol Stock, Elysian Director

ENROLLMENT AT ELYSIAN

- Elysian is a free public school and as such does not charge tuition.
- Our school is open to all children on a space-available basis, with admission preference given to Hoboken students and siblings.
- Admission to Elysian is by public lottery, held yearly, usually in January. Admission to a charter school is strictly regulated by the State.
- Visit www.ecsnj.org to download a lottery application or call (201) 876-0102. Applications can also be obtained at the school office.

VISITING ELYSIAN

Tours are held the first and third Wednesdays of every month from October-June at 9:00 am. Please call for an appointment.

SCHOOL DAY

The school day for all grades (K-8) is from 8:30 am – 2:45 pm (M-F).

ELYSIAN CHARTER SCHOOL OF HOBOKEN

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