

School Programs

Charter schools provide a choice to the parents within the state's public school system. In accordance with the law, the School will "meet high standards of student achievement while providing parents flexibility to choose among diverse educational opportunities within the State's public school system". Opening of the School will give parents and students a choice of rigorous STEM focused programs with a special emphasis on reading in Hillsborough County. The School's educational program will support a highly-rigorous academic curriculum and environment that sets high expectations for all students, teachers, parents, and staff members and fulfill its mission in the following ways:

A clear focus on academic excellence: NSS will provide state-of-the-art curricula that were designated as exemplary by the U.S. Department of Education in mathematics and science as well as rigorous reading programs consistent with effective teaching strategies, which incorporates Florida Standards, with scientifically-based reading interventions. The delivery of the curricula will be enhanced by innovative and balanced instructional methods such as project-based instruction, computer-enhanced activities, contextual learning, cooperative learning, direct and differentiated instruction, and self-directed learning. Academic excellence will be facilitated by a team of highly-qualified faculty, and it will be supported by collaboration with parents and partnerships with local higher-education and civic institutions. NSS believes that "every child can learn" when appropriate learning tools are used; when measurable progress is supported by consistent data; and when a variety of teaching strategies are used to match a student's learning style.

A comprehensive assessment program: A multiple measurement approach for student assessments, including state assessment programs, diagnosis tests, progress monitoring tests, benchmark tests, unit tests developed locally, classroom-based assessments, faculty and staff evaluations, and school climate surveys will be used to evaluate teaching and learning processes, to inform the instruction, and to improve the school environment on a consistent basis to continuously monitor, evaluate, and improve both curriculum and teaching strategies to achieve continuous student improvement year to year.

Promoting maturity and independence: NSS will strive to foster self-confidence, self-respect, and self-control in each student through group process skills and cooperative learning, the development of conflict resolution skills, and the expectation of accepting responsibility for one's actions. The academic

environment will promote high expectations of each student in the pursuit of excellence (e.g., through participation in academic competitions such as Math Competitions, Robotics, Science Fairs, STEM Expo, and Science Olympiads) and skills needed for life-long learning (e.g., through effective computer skills to travel in the global information highway).

Providing balance: Educational programs at NSS will educate the entire student body by providing a rigorous education in math, science, and technology, with a strong emphasis on reading; encouraging serious exploration of the arts and humanities; developing student awareness of local and community needs as well as an understanding of national and global issues; and striving to reach academic excellence for all the students while at the same time recognizing individual differences.

Character education and parental involvement: In collaboration with parents, teachers, and community members, NSS will provide character education to meet the unique needs of the school and local community. NSS will provide opportunities for active involvement of students, families, and the community partners in the educational process through service learning program. In addition to scheduled school wide parent conferences and parent home visits, the school will communicate with parents continuously, and at minimum on quarterly.

Subject teachers in/after 4th Grade: The elementary school will have two parts. In the lower grades (Grades Kindergarten thru 3), the instruction will be carried out by classroom teachers. Students in upper grades (grades 4 and 5) will receive specialized subject teachers in ELA, Social Studies, Math and Science.

Advance Course Path: Students will have opportunity to take high school courses in middle school such as Algebra I, Geometry, and Foreign Language.

Online Instructional Improvement and Management system that includes behavior, attendance, assessment, online courses, reporting & analysis and curriculum as well as the academics .

Home visits to bridge the gap between school and homes for students, families and teachers.