



Friends School OF CHARLOTTE

An Independent Day School for Grades K-3

300 YEARS OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Friends School of Charlotte (FSC) is a day school opening in South Charlotte in the fall of 2007, bringing over 300 years of excellence in Quaker education to the Charlotte area. FSC is committed to the principles of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality and service. FSC provides academic excellence through small classrooms with high teacher to student ratios and enriching learning environments.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a “Friends school”? A “Friends school” is one that is grounded in the tenets of the Religious Society of Friends, or “Quakers.” Quakers have a long-standing tradition of excellence and equality in education, beginning in England in 1668.

Will non-Quakers be able to attend? Absolutely. In fact, we anticipate that most students and families will not have Quaker background and will instead be drawn to the Quaker model of education.

Is FSC affiliated with other schools? No. Friends School of Charlotte is an independent school, governed by an independent board of trustees. Along with 81 other schools, including three in North Carolina, FSC is a member of the Friends Council on Education, serving over 20,000 children across the U.S.

Key Facts

- ✓ Interdisciplinary Quaker day school
- ✓ Open to students of all religious and non-religious affiliations
- ✓ Mixed-age classrooms initially serving grades K-3
- ✓ Student to teacher ratios of 9:1
- ✓ Before and after care available
- ✓ Financial assistance available

simplicity
peace
integrity
community
equality
service

What makes Friends schools different from other schools? A Friends school is unique in that it often has a more comprehensive approach than either a public or traditional private school. Friends schools avoid the “teaching-to-the-test” approach that is common in many schools, at the same time maintaining high academic standards. This results in more creative classrooms, where teachers have the opportunity to implement a curriculum where students pursue their interests in-depth, work cooperatively and develop a lifelong love of learning.

Why mixed-age classrooms? Mixed-age classrooms resemble the natural family environment and are often less stressful than traditional classrooms. Children learn at their own pace and teachers can focus on each individual child according to his or her own strengths and needs. The mixed-age group fosters a sense of “family,” and facilitates social and leadership development in addition to intellectual growth.

MORE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How will FSC enable my child to grow as an individual? The combination of small class sizes and the focus on “whole student” development create a unique learning environment. This allows parents and teachers to both identify and develop students’ gifts, whether academic, social, artistic, etc.

Will teachers at FSC be highly qualified? Yes! Friends schools attract highly qualified, experienced teachers who reflect Quaker values and recognize the benefits of a flexible teaching environment.

Students in Friends Schools

- ✓ Learn through inquiry, reflection and action in daily life
- ✓ Search for truth, valuing the challenge of competing ideas
- ✓ Resolve conflicts by respecting and listening to each other
- ✓ Value and embrace the diversity of cultures and religions in our communities
- ✓ Work for the good of society through active service learning
- ✓ Act courageously in alignment with core moral beliefs

How does FSC encourage parental involvement?

FSC values parental involvement at many levels and creates opportunities for collaboration within the school community, e.g. class involvement, parent-teacher conferences, and school community events.

My child finishes pre-school in spring of 2007.

Is FSC a good option? Yes, for children ages 5 or older as of October 16, 2007. FSC kindergarten enables today’s preschoolers to continue learning in the long-standing traditions of progressive, developmental education.

What happens when my child finishes 3rd grade?

FSC plans to add grade levels, ensuring that students will be able to continue their education in the Friends tradition of excellence. Students will also be academically prepared to transition successfully to other schools.

FRIENDS SCHOOL MISSION

Friends School of Charlotte, grounded in the Quaker values of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, and service, is dedicated to providing an educational experience that integrates the head, the hand, and the heart, resulting in a unique balance of academic excellence and spiritual depth. It is a learning community where each individual is treated with respect and where his or her uniqueness is honored. Friends School of Charlotte strives to teach students to listen within and to others, to express themselves, to think critically, to take responsibility, and to make a difference in their world. We expect our students to develop the skills, values, and confidence that support a lifetime of learning, leadership, and service.

Friends School of Charlotte, motivated by its Quaker principle of equality, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, physical disability, or socio-economic background. This policy applies to all programs and activities of the School, including, but not limited to, admission and employment practices, educational policies, scholarship and loan programs and athletic or other School-administered programs.

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