

Willow Oak Montessori

Guiding Children to Responsible Global Citizenship



Presentation to North Carolina
Charter School Advisory Board
8 September 2015

Our Mission

Willow Oak Montessori strives to assist children in achieving their unique potential as responsible global citizens by nurturing self-confidence and independent decision making in a stimulating, creative, and diverse Montessori community.

Our Values

As we pursue our mission, we are guided by our shared community values:

- ❖ Individual Growth
- ❖ Interdependence
- ❖ Peaceful Cooperation
- ❖ Respectful Care



About Willow Oak

- ❖ Opening the charter elementary program was a labor of love for our existing preschool community.
- ❖ Opened with 90 1st-3rd graders in 2013
- ❖ Currently 150 1st-5th graders
- ❖ Will grow one grade/30 students per year through 8th grade.
- ❖ Currently in an office building. Capital campaign for permanent campus underway.

Our Current Facility



Our Future Facility



Our Successes

Three viewpoints:

- ❖ Student - Mr. Camilo Garcia-Brobston
- ❖ Faculty - Ms. Meneca Davis
- ❖ Administration - Mr. Pete Rubinas

A Student's Perspective

Willow Oak Montessori is special because:

- ❖ We've been flexible as we have opened and grown.
- ❖ We've made our space our own.



A Student's Perspective

Willow Oak Montessori is special because:

- ❖ We don't just learn stuff, we also learn about life.
- ❖ We get to learn at our own level instead of all learning the same thing.
- ❖ We have friendly adults who help us grow.

A Teacher's Perspective

Willow Oak Montessori affords teachers the...

- ❖ Freedom;
- ❖ Support; and
- ❖ Preparation

necessary to meet the unique needs of each of our students.



Administration's Perspective

Willow Oak Montessori is off to a great start because:

- ❖ We have an engaged Board of Directors.
- ❖ Our mission and values permeate our culture.
- ❖ We hire great people and protect them as much as possible from administrative burdens.
- ❖ We stay focused on what is best for our students in all aspects of their development.
- ❖ We follow the proven Montessori educational philosophy with fidelity.

Administration's Perspective

Willow Oak Montessori is off to a great start because:

- ❖ We use data, but we aren't consumed by it.
- ❖ We implement “course corrections” rather than significant changes.
- ❖ We started small and paid attention to the details.
- ❖ We communicate proactively and positively with our parent community.
- ❖ We have generous parents, grandparents, and community supporters.

The Bottom Line

We are a community...on a mission...with a deep respect for our children and the possibilities that await them. We believe in the Montessori philosophy and its power to help our students grow into responsible global citizens.

What You Can Do To Help

- ❖ Please come observe at our school.
- ❖ Advocate for facilities funding for charter schools.
- ❖ Advocate for lottery flexibility to help us reach our diversity goals.
- ❖ Advocate for those of us who follow a non-linear curriculum when the new accountability model being piloted is discussed.

Questions?