

Chinook Montessori Charter School- Renewal Application

Summary

The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District approved the Chinook Montessori Charter School renewal application on November 17, 2020, for 10 years, through the end of SY 2030-31. Chinook Montessori Charter School first opened in 1996 as the first charter school in Alaska and last renewed in 2011 with a 10-year charter.

Program Information:

Chinook Montessori Charter School serves students in grades K-8. The school began with 75 students and currently has an enrollment of 151 students with approval and intent to grow to no more than 175. The current staff to student ratio is 1 teacher to no more than 24 students. The school is located at 3002 International Street. The school building is 13,500 square feet with eight ~816 square feet classrooms, a conference room/library, small supply/workroom, storage room, custodial room, school office, three restrooms, parking area, and playground. Current plans are to add a classroom and increase community space. The school has an approved estimated budget of \$1,724,790 for SY 2020-2021.

Chinook Montessori has a staff of 1 Head Teacher, 8 Teachers, 1 Administrative Secretary, 1 Custodian, 4 Classroom assistants, .1 Counselor, and Special Education related services staff.

The program at Chinook Montessori is grounded in the Montessori Philosophy. Students are in multi-age/grade classes, K, 1-3, 4-6, and 7-8, ensuring standards are addressed through student goal-based work plans and portfolios. Language Arts instruction is focused on reading and writing for real purposes. Math encourages climbing from concrete to abstract using physical math skills, mental math skills, problem-solving and flexible thinking. Social Studies concentrates on people throughout time and around the world having the same basic needs and how they satisfy these needs is determined by geographical environment and historical events. A sense of confidence, peace, and understanding is supported through science where students investigate and understand the world by studying Zoology, Botany, Earth Science, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Functional Geography, and Ecology. Technology is viewed an invaluable classroom tool integrated into all areas of the curriculum in preparation for interacting and communicating in the world. Students participate in Practical Life such as animal care, preparing meals and other life skills to care for their environment, meet their own needs, and help others as they learn how to learn.

PEAKS Performance History:

- 2016-2017
 - ELA: 56.73% of students proficient or advanced
 - Math: 48.08% of students proficient or advanced
 - Science: 64.86% of students proficient or advanced
- 2017-2018
 - ELA: 60.4% of students proficient or advanced
 - Math: 55.4% of students proficient or advanced
 - Science: 56.2% of students proficient or advanced

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- 2018-2019
 - ELA: 56.31% of students proficient or advanced
 - Math: 47.57% of students proficient or advanced
 - Science: 64.7% of students proficient or advanced

School Mission:

“Care about the children’s hearts as well as their brains.”-Montessori for the New Millenium

Chinook Montessori Charter School, a school of choice, strives to create a dynamic educational environment, which fosters educational excellence and cultivates personal, intellectual, and emotional growth and responsibility through a Montessori philosophy.

Goals of Chinook Montessori Charter School:

- **Stable Enrollment:** Excluding those who move out of the area, the school will aim for a voluntary re-enrollment of 90%.
- **Community Instruction:** Chinook has set a goal of involvement by guest speakers and guest instructors in and out of the school to equal at least 500 hours each year. We will calculate the hours based on the time guests spend teaching individuals, small groups, and whole classes.
- **Community Service:** Chinook has set a goal of offering at least 500 hours of student community service each year. We will calculate hours based on the time individual students perform community service.
- **Educational Program:** 100% of students will have an individualized learning program emphasizing academics, self-discipline, and responsible behavior as members of a learning community.
- **Parent Satisfaction:** The school has a goal of having 90% of the parents surveyed assign Chinook a letter grade of A. The percentage of satisfied parents decreased to 73.1% for the 2017-2018 school year and increased at the end of the 2018-2019 school year to 87.5%.
- **Small School Size with Low Adult-Student Ratio:** In order to maintain a family-like atmosphere, increase learning and meet the individual needs of students, Chinook will maintain a small enrollment. The school will be limited to approximately 150 children. The teacher-student ratio will not exceed 1:24.
- **Parent Involvement:** Chinook will provide an unprecedented opportunity for parents to have hands-on involvement in the structure and operation of the school. Ninety percent of all families will volunteer an average of fifteen hours per trimester.
- **Reading Competence:** 80% of all students will be at or above grade level in reading.
- **Montessori Training:** 100% of the Chinook educators will participate in on-going training or continued teacher research. Eighty percent of the Chinook teachers will be Montessori certified.