

## What is a Charter School?

Charter Schools are public schools, financed by the same per-pupil funds that fund traditional public schools. Each charter school has a contract specifying how it will operate. The contract holds the charter school accountable for improving student performance and achieving the goals of the charter. Unity Charter School is monitored by the New Jersey Department of Education and is responsible for following the New Jersey State curriculum.

Charter schools are not affiliated with other local school districts and consequently have the freedom to develop programs which provide school choice for parents and students.

## The Vision

Unity Charter School's vision is:

**to provide** an exciting environment for learning with a diversity of interest, opportunities, and methods;

**to enable** students to master fundamental concepts while encouraging ownership and personal power within the context of an ecologically responsible community;

**to foster** the responsible use of freedom, further the development of citizens capable of thinking independently, working collectively;

**to evolve** creative methods of meeting human needs while restoring and sustaining our environment.

## Staff

As part of our community of learners, our staff continues to pursue professional development. All of our teaching staff are New Jersey Certified.

**Our staff includes specialist in the areas of: Science, Math, English, Social Studies The Environment, Art, and Computers as well as an administrative staff that includes: a Business Administrator, Nurse, part time support staff and Director**

Visit Our Website  
[www.unity-nj.org](http://www.unity-nj.org)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
OR TO REQUEST AN APPLICATION  
GO TO OUR WEBSITE... OR**

**Call: Susan Paynter 973 292-1808**

**Or Write to: Unity Charter School  
340 Speedwell Avenue  
Morristown, New Jersey 07960**

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*a public school of choice*

# UNITY

CHARTER SCHOOL



**A Charter School is a tuition-free  
public school of choice**

Children AGES 5-13

Committed to Academic Excellence

A Student-Centered Focus

Inspirational Hands-on Learning Experiences

Environmental and Global Awareness

Multi-Age Grouping for

Broadened Learning Experiences

Small Class Size with Individualized Attention

Intellectual Freedom with

Emphasis on Responsibility

Opportunities for Exploration of Students'  
Individual Interests

## The Curriculum

**Committed to Academic Excellence —**  
The New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards will provide a foundation for Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Computer Technology, Multi-Cultural Studies, Science, and the Arts. These subjects will be integrated with the ecological studies using a thematic approach.

### **Inspirational Hands-on Learning Experiences—**

Direct experience with the material world will precede abstract concepts and allow for the formation of individual ideas. Students will participate in daily exploration, experimentation, data collection, and analysis using computers, microscopes, camcorders, and an exciting array of learning tools.

### **Environmental and Global Awareness —**

Students will learn accountability and responsibility through their active participation in the real-world issues of their community. In addition, students will join others on the internet and learn to share data.

### **Intellectual Freedom with Emphasis on Responsibility—**

The sharing of ideas in a non-threatening atmosphere will encourage students to think for themselves while learning to appreciate the views of others.

## A Typical Day

### **Multi -Age Grouping for Broadened Learning Experiences —**

Sharing information, ideas and problem-solving techniques with students of different ages expands the volume of knowledge, while teaching valuable social skills. Students will choose to collaborate on areas of common interest.

### **Experience-based Learning**

Projects and field trips provide opportunities for students to be a viable part of their community as well as to collect data, hone observation skills, and act as field researchers collecting and analyzing real world information.

### **Small Class Size with Individualized Attention—**

Homeroom groups of ten students will facilitate in-depth learning and discussion. In these small-group settings, students' learning styles and individual interest will be recognized, encouraged, and respected.

### **Opportunities for Exploration of Students' Individual Interests —**

Students who choose special-interest projects and will work with a mentor or with their homeroom teacher to explore topics, apply knowledge, and create a finished products for authentic audiences.

## Democratic Governance

Democratic governance is an integral part of the Unity learning experience. It provides a voice for every member of the learning community and provides an opportunity for students, parents, and staff to join the board of trustees in the decision making and governing process. Each member of the community may participate in shaping important decisions. The Unity model is comprised of three governing bodies.

1. **The Board of Trustees**, comprised of up to twelve members is the official governing body of the school. Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month.
2. **The Assembly**, comprised of parents, students, staff and board advises, recommends and votes on general policies and fiscal matters. The Assembly meets at least two times each year.
3. **The School Meeting**, comprised of staff and students, offer our young learners the experience of self governance and self management. The meetings are held every Friday morning.

## Assessment

The Unity assessment program is primarily to educate students and improve their performance, not merely to audit it. Portfolios and charts (rubrics) build a profile of individual achievement. Yearly, students participate in a comprehensive standardized testing of achievement. The TerraNova series by CTB/McGraw-Hill has been selected as the measurement tool, and is given in October. In addition, students considered as fourth and eighth graders participate in state mandated standardized testing.