



# RALEIGH OAK

A+ Schools | Fundraising | Enrollment | Location Update

## Fundraising

Fundraising will be an on-going effort in the months to come. We will continue our on-line fundraiser

[www.raleighoakcharter.org](http://www.raleighoakcharter.org).

Our goal for the start-up year is \$300,000. This includes but is not limited to funds to secure a building, travel for our lead admin and ed director to tour existing Public Waldorf schools, furniture and up fit for the school, administrative salaries in the months prior to opening, teacher salaries and training expenses for the first 3 months.

## Location Update

We are still working daily to secure our temporary location for next year and the immediate years following. We are negotiating on 2 locations in North Raleigh as this is what is currently available and suitable. We will send out an announcement once the location is secured. Thank you for your continued patience with us in this process. This is no easy task but it is our top priority. We are confident we will have a lovely space for our school!

## A+ Schools Announcement

Dear Raleigh Oak Charter School family,

We hope this newsletter finds you enjoying the wonder and natural beauty of this holiday season with family and friends, taking a pause, and recharging for the year ahead.

Raleigh Oak Charter School has great news to share with our community! We are delighted and honored to have been selected by the A+ Schools of North Carolina to join them as an A+ school. There are about 57 preK-12 A+ schools in the state of North Carolina. A+ is the signature program of the North Carolina Arts Council and, in strong partnership with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, ensures that A+ meets all state curriculum accountability standards.

North Carolina is committed to ensuring the success of all students and part of that comes from a robust and comprehensive arts education. The three parts of a comprehensive arts education model are: arts education, arts integration, and arts exposure. Arts education is the inclusion of the arts (dance, theatre arts, visual arts and music) as core academic subjects, taught by licensed arts educators. Arts integration uses the arts as a catalyst for learning across the curriculum, blending the arts and non-arts disciplines. Arts exposure ensures that we afford all of our students exposure to quality arts programming in school and outside of school, such as artists in residence, visits to museums, galleries, and concerts.

Sincerely,

The ROCS Board of Directors

## Enrollment Application

We are so excited to roll out the Raleigh Oak Charter School enrollment application. We have been excitedly awaiting this moment!

On our website, [www.raleighoakcharter.org](http://www.raleighoakcharter.org), you will find an enrollment page. There you will find all the information about the enrollment process. There is a link to a google form that you must fill out for each child you plan to enroll.

Should we have more applicants than seats available, we will hold a blind lottery according to NC state law. During this lottery a preference will be given to students who qualify for the national free and reduced lunch program. This will help ensure a diverse student population, an ideal our board is committed to achieving. Everyone interested in attending ROCS should apply!

The direct link to the enrollment application can be found [here](#).



### What is A+ & What is Arts Integration?

A+ Schools of North Carolina uses the arts to teach across the entire curriculum and is recognized as one of the nation's most successful whole-school transformation models using the arts. The A+ essentials provide a framework for each school to develop its own unique creative culture. The essentials are: enriched assessment, climate, infrastructure, experiential learning, collaboration, multiple learning pathways, curriculum and arts.

In a nutshell, arts integration is the interdisciplinary teaching practice through which non-arts and arts content is taught and assessed equitably in order to deepen students' understanding of both.

Here is an example of an arts-integrated lesson (combining math and visual arts). Using grade-appropriate geometry and visual arts language related to relative spatial positions, such as over, under, next to, and beneath, a learning objective might be: Understand the art of Matisse through the identification of shapes, patterns, and the relative position of objects in a collage done by Matisse. The learning objective would be re-written in student-friendly language. Categorize and identify shapes and lines, create your own collage, and describe the types and relative positions of the shapes and lines in the student work.

Raleigh Oak Charter School staff and administrators will engage in ongoing learning to develop a shared vocabulary, use example charts to identify practices that we are currently using in the classroom, and explore other ways to develop arts integration in conjunction with other A+ schools in North Carolina and around the country. Moreover, Public Waldorf curriculum and pedagogy emphasizes arts integration naturally and A+ will further complement our ability to reach each and every learner, whatever his or her learning style.



## Calendar of Events

- January 27th 3pm-5pm, North Regional Public Library– Intro to Public Waldorf Education and Informational session for School followed by Q & A
- January 31st - Enrollment Applications DUE!
- February 16th - Tentative date of lottery drawing
- April 2nd - Registration Paperwork Due
- January - March - Teacher selection process
- June - August - Teacher training
- July 9-13 - A+ training for ROCS teachers
- July - August - School tours and parent involvement with school painting (learn to Lazure!) and set-up projects
- August 16 - First teacher Workday
- August 22nd - FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS!!!

## What are the benefits of arts integration for students?

Much research has been done on the importance of the arts for our schools and students. Top skills that children glean from the arts are: creativity, confidence, problem solving, perseverance, and focus. Arts integration, which integrates the arts in to the learning process, results in student growth, teacher efficacy and satisfaction, and improved classroom and school culture and climate. These are just the tip of the iceberg in terms of the positive impact of adding arts integration to schools. Typically, successful A+ schools report fewer attendance issues, fewer disciplinary problems, stronger teacher satisfaction and higher parent and community engagement levels, in addition to increased grade-level proficiency.

## A+ Commitment

As part of the A+ network of schools, Raleigh Oak Charter teachers and administrative staff will be engaging in ongoing professional development and learning. During Year One, our entire school staff will attend a 5-day summer institute in July; during the year, teachers and administrators will engage in two full days, or three half-day, of onsite follow up at our school with A+ professional development fellows. In years two and three, there will be another summer conference for the entire school staff as well as continued professional development.

*Adapted from A+ Schools of North Carolina marketing materials*



