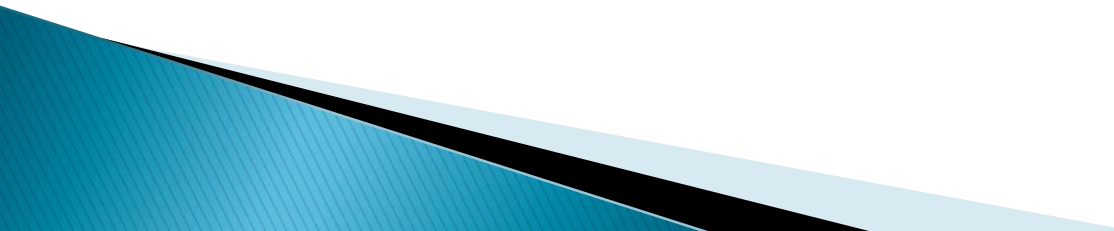




Brighten Academy
Open Enrollment Orientation
2011-2012

Brighten Academy's Mission

The mission of Brighten Academy is to provide a productive learning environment with a highly qualified staff committed to using an innovative, research-based instructional model that produces measured growth in every student every year.



Administrative Team

Lisa McDonald, Curriculum Director

Connie Arnold, Assistant Director

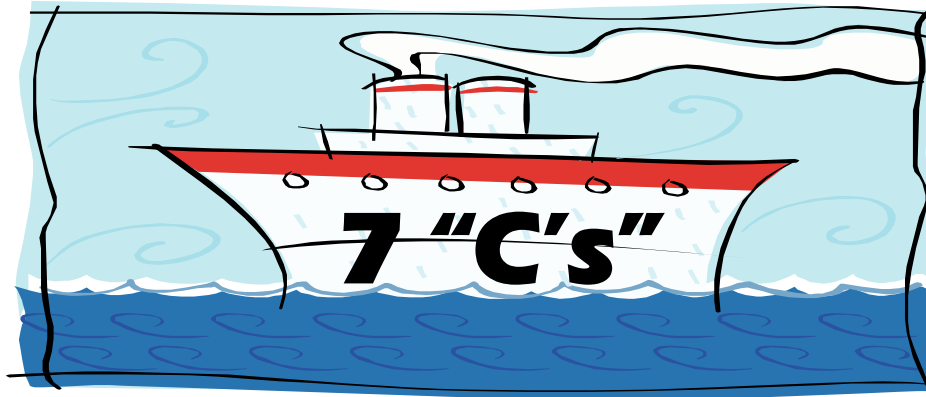
Angi Andrews, Business / Student Services
Manager

Brighten Academy's Core Beliefs (1)

- 1) All students will learn.*
- 2) All students have developmental differences, as well as varying levels of experiences, knowledge, and ability.*
- 3) High expectations of every child are necessary to help students reach their full potential.*
- 4) Students learn through active exploration and practical application.*
- 5) Students have different learning styles and should be taught using a variety of instructional strategies.*
- 6) Educating a child is a shared accountability among the school, home, and community.*

Brighten Academy's Core Beliefs (2)

- 7) *Appropriate behavior is required of all students and members of the learning community to maximize safety and learning.*
- 8) *A nurturing and structured learning environment is essential.*
- 9) *Teacher planning, collaboration, and professional development are vital for improving student achievement.*
- 10) *The school must cultivate a strong sense of responsibility to self, family, and community.*
- 11) *Instructional decisions will be made based on the needs of the students.*
- 12) *The school will function as a business and practice fiscal responsibility.*

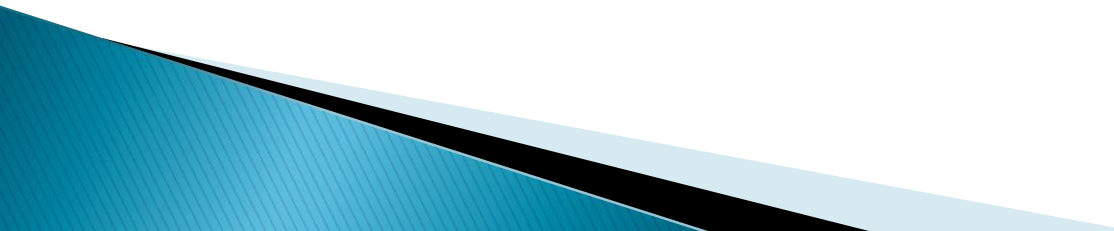


CONNECTIONS EDUCATIONAL FRAMEWORK

Character
Commitment
Critical thinking
Creativity
Curiosity
Community
Culture



What is a public charter school?

- A tuition-free public school
 - Non-sectarian...cannot be religiously based
 - Funded by public dollars
 - Open to all students without admissions tests
 - Free from many of the regulations of traditional district public schools
 - In exchange for flexibility, held accountable for student achievement
 - Can be closed if it does not perform what it promises
- 

Today's vision

~~All schools are charter schools.~~

All students are in
high performing schools.

Parents have choices.



Types of charter schools

Dependent Charter Schools

Conversion Schools (Walton HS, North Springs HS)

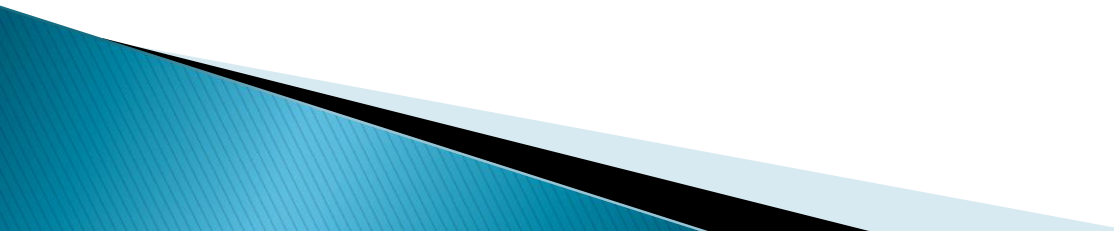
Charter Systems (City of Decatur, Marietta City Schools)

Independent Charter Schools

Authorized by local school district

Authorized by GA Charter Schools Commission

What type is Brighten?

- ▶ An Independent “startup” Charter School
 - ▶ Authorized by Douglas County School District
 - ▶ Governed by its own 11 member board
- 

District School vs Charter School

- Governed by local School Board
- Designated Principal -limited flexibility in hiring teachers
- Difficulty dismissing teachers who do not perform
- Locked into curriculum and scheduling
- Can continue to operate if academic achievement lags
- Teach to the Test – CRCT, EOCT, etc.

- Governed by independent board—usually includes parents
- Autonomy in the selection of school leader & staff
- Can dismiss teachers who do not meet expectations
- Flexibility in curriculum design, school hours, etc.
- Will not be renewed if academic achievement lags
- Administer CRCT, EOCT, etc.

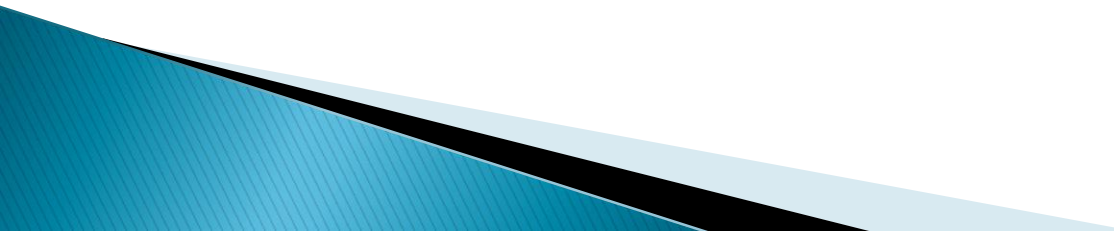
School and Office Hours

- ▶ Students may arrive at 7:15 and enter into cafeteria
- ▶ Please make sure a staff member sees your child
- ▶ Car rider line begins at 7:40
- ▶ Students must be *seated* in homeroom by 8:15
- ▶ Dismissal begins at 3:00
 - Allowed 3 late pick ups (after 3:25) or required to register in After School Program
- ▶ Afterschool Program K–8, 6:00 pm

Curriculum

- ▶ Follow Georgia Performance Standards(GPS) in all grade levels
- ▶ Seven Cs
- ▶ Textbooks
 - Reading A to Z (Primary Reading)
 - Investigations in Data (K–5 Math)
 - Connected Math (6–8)
 - History Alive, Geography Alive (4–8)
 - Harcourt Science, AIMS, GEMS, and FOSS (K–8)
- ▶ Supplements:
 - Touchmath, ADD, Number of the Day, Mountain Math, Hands on Equations
 - Wordly Wise, Sitton Spelling, Daily Grammar Practice, Mountain Language
 - Interact Units, NHI publications, GA frameworks

Assessment

- ▶ Standards Based
 - ▶ Frequent
 - ▶ Tiered Assessment
 - ▶ Formal and Informal
 - ▶ Detailed Report card, every 9 weeks
 - ▶ Parent or student led conferences twice a year
 - ▶ Graded papers sent home
- 

Student Discipline Code

- ▶ Positive Behavior Interventions at classroom and school level
- ▶ Tiered Discipline Cycle
- ▶ Classroom level discipline
- ▶ School level discipline
 - Administrator will notify you
 - Offenses
 - Zero Tolerance Offense
 - Chronic Behaviors
- ▶ Admin Conference
- ▶ Pre-mediation
- ▶ Mediation

Dress Code

▶ Shirts

- Style: polo, oxford
- Color : red, navy, white
- No adornments (rhinestones)
- Logos must be smaller than 2" x 3"

▶ Jackets /sweaters /coats

- Color: red, navy, white
- Solid in color

Student Dress Code

- ▶ Pants/shorts/skirts
 - Navy
 - Khaki
 - 2" above knee
 - Free from tears, patches, etc.
- ▶ Shoes
 - Blue, Brown, black, white
 - Athletic shoes on PE/Dance and Movement days
 - Back straps
 - No flip flops
 - Closed toe required after January
- ▶ Modesty Prevails (jewelry, hair color, hair style, accessories)

Strategic Plan

- ▶ Acquire new building
 - Gym
 - Cafeteria
 - Expand Connections/Specials
 - Technology
 - Band
 - Chorus
 - ▶ Expand K–8 programs
 - ▶ 640 students
- 