


THE WORLD IS THEIR CLASSROOM



MISSION

A young girl with dark skin and hair, wearing a red polo shirt, is smiling and holding a small turtle. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with greenery and a wooden structure.

Discovery Charter School will foster in its students the passion and curiosity necessary for lifelong learning. Students will develop the ability to think critically, communicate effectively and excel academically. Through an integrated, place-based curriculum, our students will become stewards of their environment and community.

WHY DISCOVERY CHARTER SCHOOL?

Free Public School of Choice

Discovery is a free public school of choice for families and children throughout Northwest Indiana.

Integrated, Place-Based Curriculum

Discovery provides an integrated curriculum so that subjects become relevant for the children—utilizing the rich environmental, cultural, social and industrial resources of our community as the background for learning.

Outdoor Learning

Discovery students take their studies outside—the unique natural setting of the school provides an ideal classroom for scientific study.

Continuity and Confidence-building

Discovery keeps children in one school building from Kindergarten through 8th grade, allowing for continuity and confidence-building for students and development of a cohesive school community.

Nutritious Lunch Choices

Discovery provides breakfast and lunch choices that focus on health and nutrition and that strive to be organic, local and waste-free.

Health and Wellness

Physical fitness and physical activity will be part of each student's day, promoting health and wellness.

Free Full-day Kindergarten

Discovery provides free full-day kindergarten, which studies show increases student achievement.

Casual School Uniforms

Discovery students will wear casual school uniforms to ensure they are ready for hands-on and outdoor learning.

Duneland Calendar

The Discovery school calendar is the same as the Duneland School Corporation calendar for vacations and holidays.

Longer School Day

8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (1:50 p.m. dismissal on Wednesdays for teacher professional development)

Before and After School Care Available

6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. (Applications can be mailed or faxed to: Discovery Charter School, 800 Canonie Drive, Porter, IN 46304 / Fax: 312-896-6672)

EDUCATIONAL APPROACH

Discovery Charter School is held to very high academic standards. As a public school, we participate in the state testing programs, have only certified teachers, and submit annual reports to the public. Our curriculum is aligned to the Indiana state standards for each grade level. What makes Discovery unique is the method of teaching. To make learning relevant and meaningful to children (which increases learning and retention), we use a hands-on environmental curriculum and differentiated instruction.

Discovery Charter School offers a **standards-based integrated environmental curriculum**. The school utilizes the local community and environment to teach concepts across all subjects, including reading, math, science, language arts, social studies and art. The children will do much of their learning outdoors, fostering their connection to and stewardship of the natural world. Discovery Charter School promotes learning as an integrated, interdisciplinary process rather than as a series of isolated subjects. The school's hands-on approach and emphasis on outdoor education provides children with the opportunity to learn through active engagement. Discovery Charter School's students will acquire the needed tools of inquiry and expression, so that each may construct a personally meaningful understanding of the world and become an imaginative, independent thinker.

Our teachers are trained to use **differentiated instruction** so that teaching is targeted to the differing learning styles of the students. Differentiated instruction means starting where students are rather than adopting a standardized approach to teaching that presumes that all learners of a given age or grade are essentially alike. In this way, differentiated instruction is "responsive" teaching rather than "one-size-fits-all" teaching. Teachers proactively plan varied approaches to what students need to learn, how they will learn it, and/or how they can express what they have learned. This helps increase the likelihood that each student will learn as much as he or she can.



Centrally Located The school is located at 800 Canonie Drive, right next to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The site is centrally located between US. 12 and U.S. 20, 1/2 mile east of Route 49. We believe the central location will attract students from throughout the area who are interested in a hands-on learning environment that takes advantage of the many unique features of Northwest Indiana.

School Management Discovery Charter School is run by a school board, comprised of members of the founding board, parents and community members. The founding board has hired American Quality Schools (AQS), a non-profit school management organization, to run daily operations. Because of AQS's focus on the needs of the children, the schools managed by them throughout Indiana and Illinois have shown measurable improvement in student achievement and a significant increase in overall happiness of both the students and parents. www.aqs.org

Charter School Discovery Charter School operates under a performance contract known as a charter that gives the school more independence than a traditional public school. In exchange for increased freedom, charter schools are held accountable for results. The Office of Charter Schools at Ball State University is our authorizer. They provide additional oversight of the educational and fiscal operations of the school. <http://www.bsu.edu/teachers/charter/>

APPLICATION

Applications are available for the 2010-2011 school year on the Discovery Charter School website www.dunesdiscoverycharter.org.

Applications can be mailed or faxed to:

Discovery Charter School
800 Canonie Drive
Porter, IN 46304

219.929.5723

APPLICATION DEADLINE WAS APRIL 16TH, 2010.

Discovery Charter School held a random lottery on April 23, 2010. Although all classes are full, applications are being accepted for the waiting list. **Do not hand deliver applications to the school.**

Please direct questions to:
[discoverycharterschool@ aqs.org](mailto:discoverycharterschool@aq.s.org)

DISCOVERY
CHARTER SCHOOL

www.dunesdiscoverycharter.org