

Bright Horizon Charter School
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Bright Horizon Charter School will serve 250 elementary and middle school students in Southern New Jersey who either reside in out of home placements such as foster care, or are at risk of foster care placement due to factors such as homelessness, incarcerated parents or poverty levels. This often invisible and voiceless student population is at extreme high risk for low academic achievement as well as dropping out of school due to the severe academic, social, and emotional consequences of numerous placements in foster homes, group homes and residential facilities. The Bright Horizon Charter School Founders envision a permanent educational facility for transient students, offering a wealth of positive relationships and academic success to further nurture this vulnerable population.

At Bright Horizon Charter School, students will be accepted, appreciated, nurtured, and challenged according to their individual needs. Through their education at Bright Horizon Charter School, students will gain the skills, strategies, and desire necessary for continued learning. They will also develop a strong sense of responsibility for themselves, their community, and the global society. To this end, Bright Horizon Charter School will be creating and managing a learning environment that actively engages students in challenging programs leading to academic success. Such an environment should include but not be limited by the following:

- A belief that all students can achieve high standards even though they may enter the school with different strengths, weaknesses, and life experiences;
- Opportunities for all students to engage in a rigorous curriculum;
- A physically and emotionally safe, content-rich learning environment that supports academic risk-taking, student participation, multiple intelligence projects and cooperative learning experiences;
- Excellent facilities, including a well-equipped and well-staffed school library, technological resources, and instructional materials that are accessible to all students;
- The support of a site administrator who acts as an instructional leader, as well as a site manager;
- A system that encourages parents/guardians to assist their children in exceeding the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards grade-level standards; and
- Professional development that includes mentoring and coaching which continuously improves educators' knowledge about student development, content instruction, and research-based instructional strategies.

Bright Horizon Charter School's administrators, faculty and staff will govern with an open mind to create a rich multicultural environment for learning; design an integrated curriculum including science, social studies, physical education and fine arts components; provide for children to become self-directed learners; and share their enthusiasm for learning in an atmosphere of mutual respect and appreciation.