

Abstract of Proposed Charter School

It is the philosophy of the Organ Mountain Community Charter School (OMCCS) founders that children are more successful in an environment in which they are fully engaged in their own learning and where they interact with other students to achieve goals and acquire knowledge. Core educational skills will be critical in facilitating an effective cooperative learning, project-based environment in which students work collectively towards a common goal. The inclusion model, which places the child with special needs in a regular education classroom with his/her peers when appropriate, with necessary support and modifications, will be used to educate the child in accordance with the his/her Individual Education Plan (IEP). Additional services will be contracted as necessary (Stout, 2001).

OMCCS will offer a solid basic education, meeting or exceeding all state standards. The curriculum will be enriched by the integration of music and the arts, and health and wellness life-skills. OMCCS aims to improve student success by offering an enriched curriculum, meeting all state standards and benchmarks, delivered in a child-centered, project-based manner by highly qualified teachers in conjunction with informed, involved parents.

The needs of English Language Learners (ELL) students will be met by providing extensive English language development through certified teachers. A dual language program consisting of curriculum that is standards-based and will promote the development of bilingual, bi-literate, and multicultural competencies for all students will begin in kindergarten the second year and will be implemented in an additional grade each successive year (Howard, 2007).

Parent and community involvement will be an important part of the school environment and parents will be required to participate in their child's education. The community will be invited and encouraged to take an active part in furthering the children's educational experiences; through tutoring programs, student mentorships, and hands on vocational experiences.

OMCCS will operate under a balanced calendar system which consists of four nine-week quarters with two week intercessions between each. According to Cooper, a decrease in learning loss occurs when breaks are more frequent and of shorter duration (2003).

Our parent group, *Friends of OMCCS*, is already in place and ready to welcome incoming members. They will support the OMCCS staff, students and the governing council in any way possible. For more information, please visit their web site: <http://friends.omccs.org>