New Charter School Application

Public Hearing for DCSD Charter Applicants

April 26, 2022

Douglas County School District
School District
Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow

New Charter School Application Process

In alignment with the [Colorado Charter School Act](#) 22-30.5-107 (b)

– The local board of education shall receive and review all applications for charter schools. If the local board of education does not review a charter application, it shall be deemed to have denied the charter application.

Douglas County School district welcomes high-quality charter applications on an annual basis, with current letters of intent due on March 1, and full applications submitted through Charter Tools between March 1 and March 15 annually.

CHOICE
PROGRAMMING
Douglas County School District

New Charter School Application Process
[Colorado Charter School Act](#) 22-30.5-106.

The Checklist for a Comprehensive Application will be used by both the applicant and DCSD to monitor the completeness of the application. The Evaluation Criteria provides DCSD with means of determining the quality of the application component, but may also be used by the applicant when targeting a high-quality school program. The required components of the application are as follows:

A - Executive Summary

B - Vision and Mission Statements

C - Goals, Objectives and Pupil Performance Standards

D - Evidence of Support

E - Educational Program

F - Plan for Evaluating Pupil Performance

G - Budget and Finance

H - Governance

I - Employees

J - Insurance Coverage

K - Parent and Community Involvement

L - Enrollment Policy

M - Transportation and Food Service

N - Facilities

O - Waivers

P - Student Discipline, Expulsion, or Suspension

Q - Serving Students with Special Needs

R - Dispute Resolution Process

S - School Management Contracts

Appendix A: Charter School Intent to Submit Form

Appendix B: Evaluation Rubric

Important Dates

3/18   Choice sends out Application to Charter Application Review Team (CART) BOE is notified of applications

3/19- 4/8 CART reviews applications

3/23   Choice meets with CART and DAC, FOC, LRPC to review

3/30   Choice reviews application for completion

4/12   Missing components from completion check due to the Choice Office by the Applicants

4/13   Choice Sends Charter Application updates to the Board of Education

4/19   Applicant interviews 9-2 in Boardroom. CART debrief after

4/20- 4/22 CART reviews applicant response from interview and creates additional questions

4/22   Additional questions for the applicant due to the choice office from CART, DAC, FOC, LRPC

4/25   Choice sends additional questions to the applicant

4/26   Public hearing at the DCSD Board meeting

5/2   Answers to the additional questions due to the Choice office/ Choice shares with the CART,DAC,LRPC, FOC

5/10   DAC, FOC & LRPC Review of Application due to the Choice office

5/11   CART completes individual component reviews in preparation to complete final recommendation

5/13   CART work session to complete Final Recommendation

5/18   Choice Office shares staff recommendation with Cabinet

5/23   Cabinet Recommendations sent to the Applicant

5/23   Cabinet Recommendations sent to the Board of Education

6/7   BOE Approves or Denies Application

6/8   If approved, or conditionally approved, contract negotiations begin

2022 Charter Application Review Team

Erica Mason- Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Nate Burgard- Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Colleen Doan- Business Services

Kristen Haneke- Business Services

Natasha Straayer- Gifted Education

Dr. Remy Rummell- Language,Culture and Equity

LRPC- Stephanie Van Zante

Sarah Cannon- Special Education

Laura Gorman- Grants

Derek Stertz- Planning & Construction

Mary Chesla- Human Resource

Jen Peifer- Nutrition Services

Gordon Mosher- Choice Programming

Kristin Schmidt- Choice Programming

Gina Schlieman- Outside reviewer

Kelly Pointer, Stephanie George, Kate Welsh DAC

James Coope- FOC

Stephanie Vanzante LRPC

NOVASTAR ACADEMY

Larisa Hegenbarth and Team

10 minutes presentation /
10 minute Q&A

Novastar: A new generation of learning

Who we are

Novastar: A new generation of learning

Vision - to create an innovative learning experience for a new generation and equip students to become competent, capable, and compassionate members of a globally-minded community.

Core Values Respect: *Respect an individual and communities, morals and ethics, cultures and values.* Integrity: *Foster integrity in academics, character, and work*. Leadership: *Become a leader, a steward, and a citizen.*

Mission

Our mission is to utilize an interdisciplinary project-based STEAM curriculum, to deliver rigorous, technology-enhanced, personalized, multi-literacy instruction aligned with internationally-benchmarked standards for college and career readiness in a whole-child environment that fosters emotional maturity, global competence, student agency, community engagement, and workplace explorations.
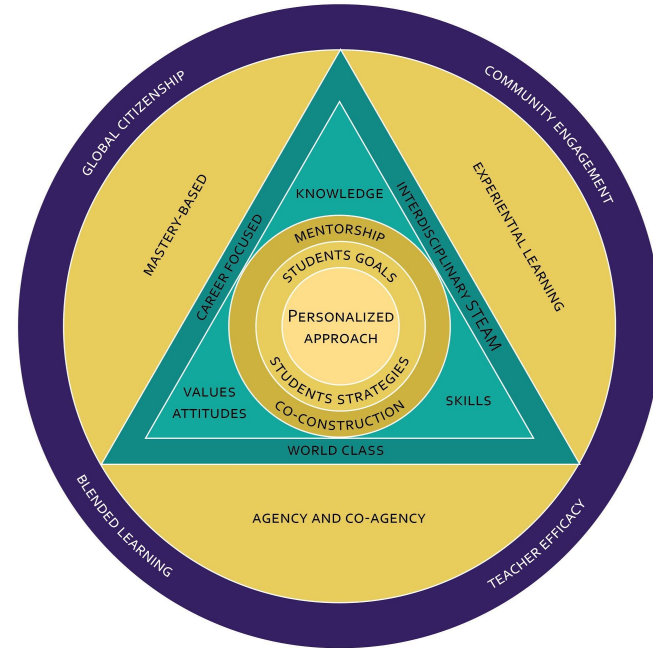
Novastar: A new generation of learning

The foundation of Novastar Academy's philosophy is the belief that every child has a unique destiny. Our primary goal is to unlock this destiny by providing a truly **personalized education** filled with meaningful learning experiences, effective strategies for learning, and tools to empower academic and personal growth.

#Rigor: *learn as fast as you can and far as you want*

#Empowerment: *prepared to become a leader, a steward, and a citizen*
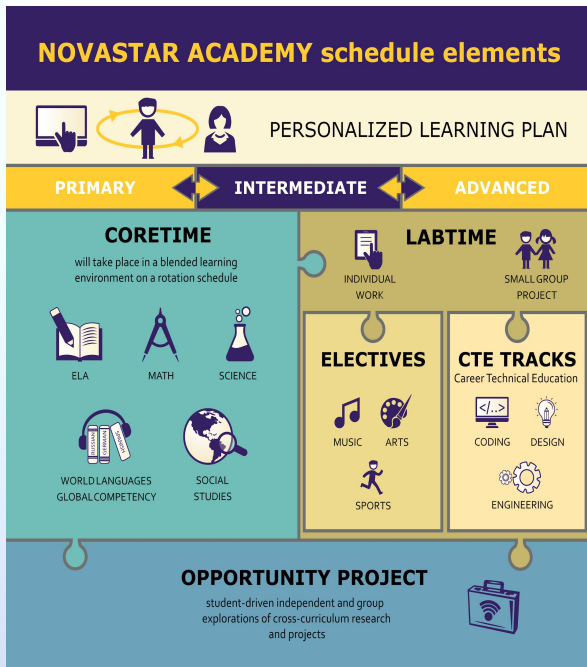
Novastar: A new generation of learning

Hybrid blended learning Environment

Novastar: A new generation of learning

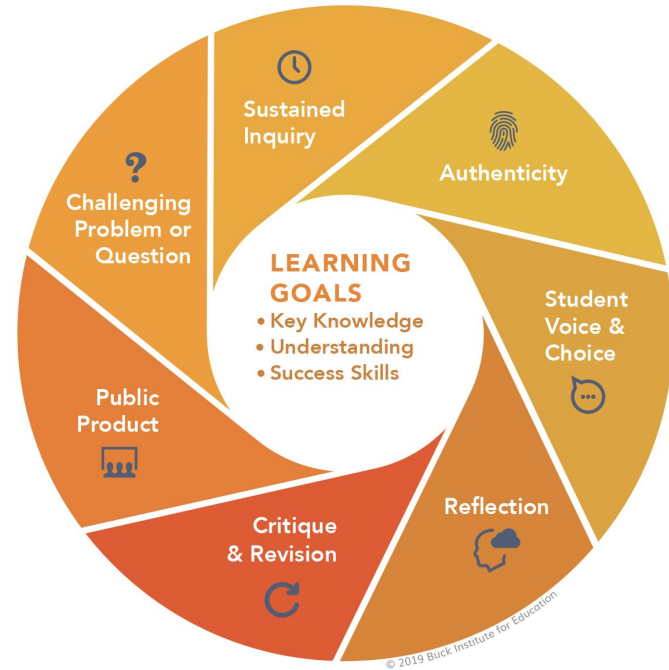**NOVASTAR ACADEMY schedule elements**

PERSONALIZED LEARNING PLAN

PRIMARY ◄► INTERMEDIATE ◄► ADVANCED

CORETIME
will take place in a blended learning environment on a rotation schedule

ELA · MATH · SCIENCE

WORLD LANGUAGES GLOBAL COMPETENCY · SOCIAL STUDIES

LABTIME

INDIVIDUAL WORK · SMALL GROUP PROJECT

ELECTIVES
MUSIC · ARTS · SPORTS

CTE TRACKS
Career Technical Education
CODING · DESIGN · ENGINEERING

OPPORTUNITY PROJECT
student-driven independent and group explorations of cross-curriculum research and projects

	Thursday			Friday	
Mentorship Path				Mentorship Path	
Track B - HS: Primary group	**Track B - HS: Intermediate group**	**Track B - HS: Advanced group**		**Track A - MS**	**Track B - HS**
Foreign Language Lessons	Math and ELA Lessons	Math and ELA Lessons / ELL block		Mentorship Path	
Math and ELA Lessons	Foreign Language Lessons	Math and ELA Lessons / ELL block		Opportunity Project (Project Based Learning Class: CTE Tracks and PLP Curriculum)	Opportunity Project (Project Based Learning Class: CTE Tracks and PLP Curriculum)
Math and ELA Lessons / ELL block	Math and ELA Lessons / ELL block	Foreign Language Lessons			
Math and ELA Lessons / ELL block	Math and ELA Lessons / ELL block	Math and ELA Lessons			
Science, History/SS, PLP, and Project Lessons	Science, History/SS, PLP, and Project Lessons	Science, History/SS, PLP, and Project Lessons		Opportunity Project (Project Based Learning Class: CTE Tracks and PLP Curriculum)	Opportunity Project (Project Based Learning Class: CTE Tracks and PLP Curriculum)
Science, History/SS, PLP, and Project Lessons	Science, History/SS, PLP, and Project Lessons	Science, History/SS, PLP, and Project Lessons			
Science, History/SS, PLP, and Project Lessons	Science, History/SS, PLP, and Project Lessons	Science, History/SS, PLP, and Project Lessons		Character Education Lessons	
Science, History/SS, PLP, and Project Lessons	Science, History/SS, PLP, and Project Lessons	Science, History/SS, PLP, and Project Lessons		**Learning Lab** (Flex time: Math Support Lessons, ELL and Special Education Supports)	

Instructional Time

Novastar: *A new generation of learning*

Novastar is committed to multi-literacy of academic, digital, financial, health, cultural, and social literacy. Inclusive **Multiliteracy** creates a whole-child educational program, individually expressed through personalized learning paths. These customized paths are designed, with the help of the student and family, to meet each student's unique needs abilities, and ambitions.

Sustained Inquiry

Authenticity

Challenging Problem or Question

LEARNING GOALS
• Key Knowledge
• Understanding
• Success Skills

Student Voice & Choice

Public Product

Reflection

Critique & Revision

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Novastar: A new generation of learning

Curriculum Intent

Novastar: A new generation of learning

- *$33,000 in charter school planning grants in 2017-2019 Colorado League of Charter Schools*
- *Novastar won $990,000.00 in a competitive Colorado Charter Schools Program grant*
- *An academic program design was validated by the UK and US Director of Education Kunskapsskolan© John Baumber*
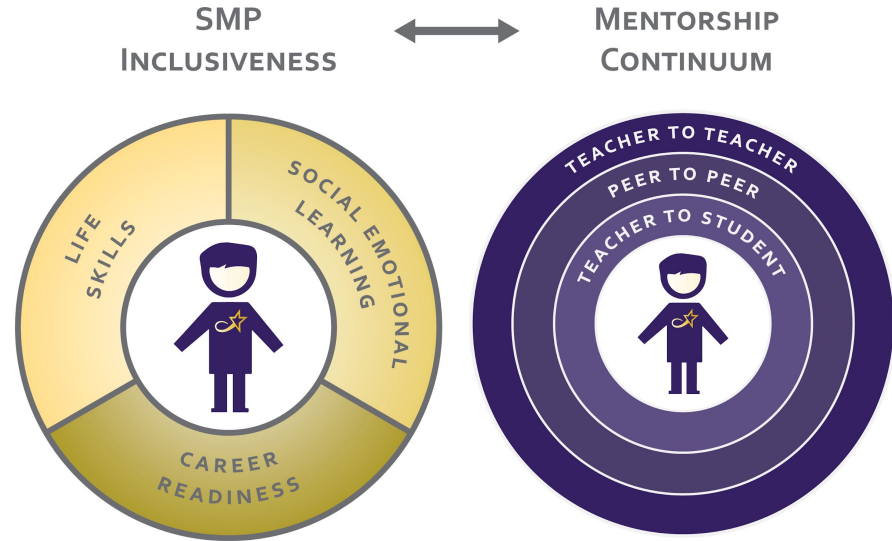
Milestones

Novastar: A new generation of learning

Novastar **Mentorship** Paths system, a holistic approach to mentoring and coaching, will facilitate the development of self-regulated learners who are motivated and curious, have mastered learning (cognition), and have a range of personal strategies leading to successful learning outcomes (metacognition). The main goals of that system are to build a safe and family-oriented environment for every child and to help them review their progress and develop strategies to reach their goals.

SMP INCLUSIVENESS ⟷ MENTORSHIP CONTINUUM

LIFE SKILLS

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

CAREER READINESS

TEACHER TO TEACHER
PEER TO PEER
TEACHER TO STUDENT

Mentorship

Novastar: A new generation of learning

The Novastar community is a **grassroots effort** composed of local families and students who are seeking an academically rigorous, globally aware, and tech-enabled program that celebrates and sustains their cultural diversity. Novastar's academic proposal of personalized learning is intended to better serve **all** students, including **gifted and talented, special needs, bilingual,** and **English Language Learner students.**

OUR FEATURES

International Standards

Focus on international awareness and inclusiveness, as well as proficiency in foreign languages, digital and financial literacy and global citizenship.

Project-Based Learning STEAM

Experiential and project-based learning are essential components enabling our students to develop 21st-century skills and capabilities to create, respond and perform.

Mastery-Based Education

To achieve equitable outcomes for our students, we have to meet them where they are, personalize their learning paths and facilitate the learning of core academic knowledge and life-long skills.

World Languages

We create Language Learner Paths study plans for each student learning English as a second or World languages.

Early Career

High quality Career and Technical Education programming and workplace exploration starting at middle school.

Our Community

Novastar: A new generation of learning

Novastar: A new generation of learning

 Our goal for all students graduating with Novastar is a **Career Technical Certification** *validated by IMS Global Consortium and a* **Seal of Biliteracy** *validated by Colorado Department of Education to expand our graduates global competence and competitiveness.*

Douglas County
School District

Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow

*STEM School
Highlands Ranch*

Dr. Penny Eucker and Team

**10 minutes presentation / 10
minute Q&A**

Who We Are

STEM School Sterling Ranch is a prospective NEW School, replicated off our flagship school, STEM School Highlands Ranch

At STEM School Sterling Ranch we put innovation in the center of learning to unleash the potential of all students and prepare them for an exponentially changing world.

Mission

Never Stop Innovating

Vision

We envision a world of exponential possibilities where every child develops the innate knowledge, skills, creativity and character to thrive, lead and succeed in an ever-changing future.

What We Believe

Creating an environment of respect and success in an exponentially changing world.

Nurturing unlimited human potential.

Optimizing resources and operations.

Leveraging the power of collaboration through continuous inquiry and experimentation.

Impacting the world ethically and positively.

Relentlessly reinvent and adapt.

Our KOSON Instructional Model

A Methodology

PBL is a teaching methodology where learning is student-centered and driven by relevant, real-world problems.
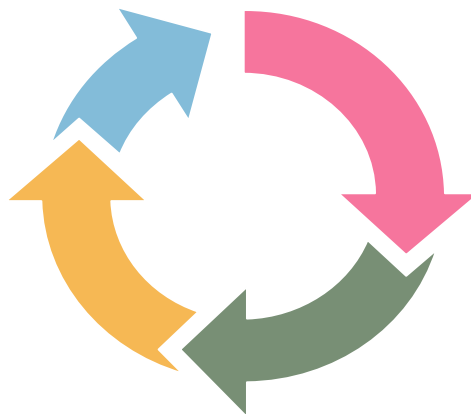
An Investigation

Students access background knowledge and investigate standards-aligned concepts that might help solve the problem.

A Process

Students learn about the problem, ask questions, research, brainstorm solutions, test, analyze, and take action.
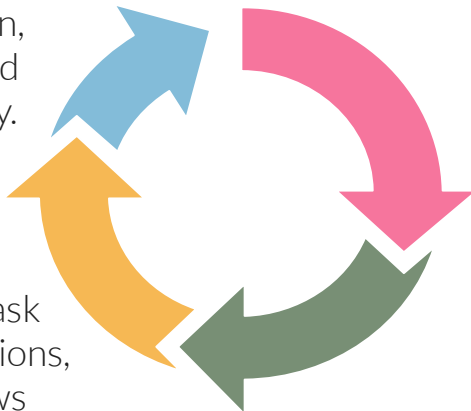
Our KOSON Instructional Model

STEM Skills

Encourages peer collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, and responsible use of technology.

Relevancy

Takes a student-centered approach to equip students with the skills to solve culturally relevant, real-world problems.

Innovative Partnerships

Students learn about the problem, ask questions, research, brainstorm solutions, test, analyze, and take action. Allows students to communicate and collaborate with stakeholders in new ways.
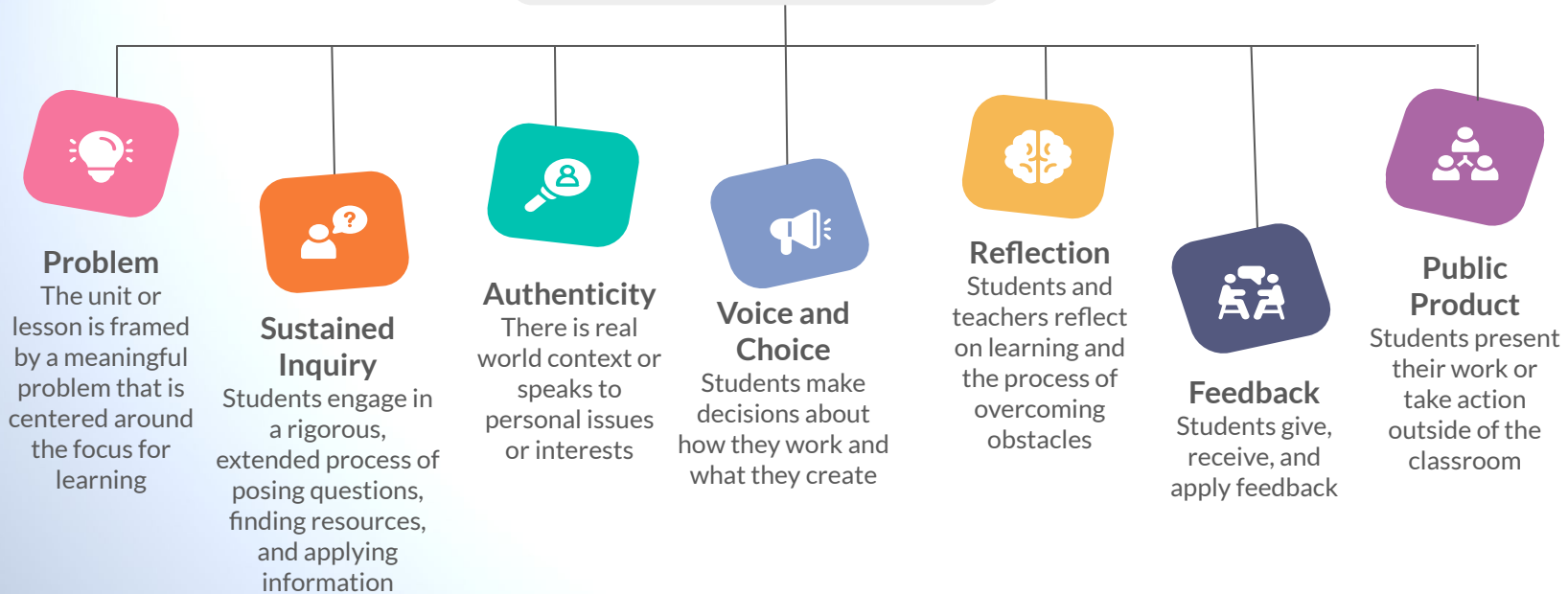
Meaningful Learning Opportunities

Gives students a purpose for learning standards-based content.

Our KOSON Instructional Model

Gold Standard PBL

Problem
The unit or lesson is framed by a meaningful problem that is centered around the focus for learning

Sustained Inquiry
Students engage in a rigorous, extended process of posing questions, finding resources, and applying information

Authenticity
There is real world context or speaks to personal issues or interests

Voice and Choice
Students make decisions about how they work and what they create

Reflection
Students and teachers reflect on learning and the process of overcoming obstacles

Feedback
Students give, receive, and apply feedback

Public Product
Students present their work or take action outside of the classroom

Our KOSON Instructional Model

Our STEM Curriculum

From science and technology to the environment and global economy, we know that the future will be full of reinvention and change.

Our academic curriculum offers:

- A creative, exciting and challenging academic model that uniquely blends the limitless potential of every child with fun.

- Combination of computer coding, language arts and mathematics to engage and excite even our youngest learners.

- Character development that is key as we nurture and develop responsible and respectful elementary students.

Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow
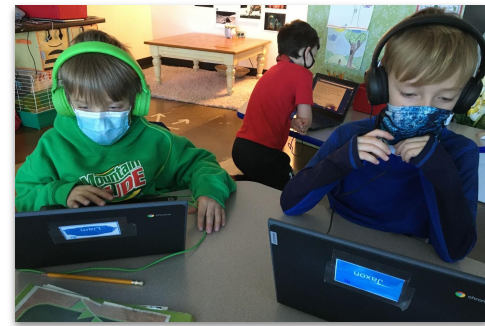
The Student Experience

We focus on providing a rigorous and relevant core education that taps into the innate curiosity of each student while integrating essential STEM skills and concepts within literacy, mathematics, social studies and science.

Additional Areas of Focus
Engineering & Technology
Foreign Language
Art
Music
Physical Education
Field Trips

The Student Experience

Benefits:

- Families can expect an inclusive and inviting environment for all students and staff.

- Unique educational experiences that will meet the needs of all students within DCSD.

- We are a one-of-its kind school that will get students and families excited about in-person, hands-on learning.

- Connecting with industry leaders will set students up for success and to be prepared to solve the world's challenges.

- Provide after-school Enrichment programming based on community input and interest.

Our Commitment to our Community

STEM School Sterling Ranch will:

- Provide an inclusive environment for our parent community that includes involvement and input through our Parent-Teacher Organization and our School Accountability Committee.

- Have a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) committee for parent and community involvement to provide school leaders with input and feedback.

- An Elementary Student Council will be established to get student voice and input, and build student community within the school.

Our Commitment to our Community

STEM School Sterling Ranch will:

- ◦ Have opportunities for parents within our STEM School Sterling Ranch community to be part of our KOSON Schools Board of Directors to ensure community representation.

- ◦ Have ongoing Parent and Community Volunteer opportunities to establish and maintain the connection between our teachers and our families.

- ◦ Hold monthly/bi-monthly Parent Coffees to welcome new families, as well as establish and maintain strong parent relationships.

Our Commitment to our Community

STEM School Sterling Ranch will:

- Provide families with Weekly communications through our Weekly Parent Newsletter that will share the News and Updates of the schools, as well as highlights from within the classrooms.

- Have a dynamic, informative and user-friendly website that will provide our families with the most current information.

- Connect with our community on Social Media to provide engagement avenues that foster strong relationships and school pride.

Unleashing Every Student's Potential

We Believe ALL Students deserve a high quality, engaging, and inclusive environment for learning.

We will provide differentiated learning for all students, but in particular:

- English Language Learners
- Gifted/Talented Learners
- Students will Special Education needs (504 Accommodations, etc.)

We believe our Push-In Model of delivering specialized services for our students is the most successful and effective.

Unleashing Every Student's Potential

STEM School Sterling Ranch is a replication of our flagship school in Highlands Ranch and we believe that the opportunities that our students have and receive to unleash their potential should be available to all.

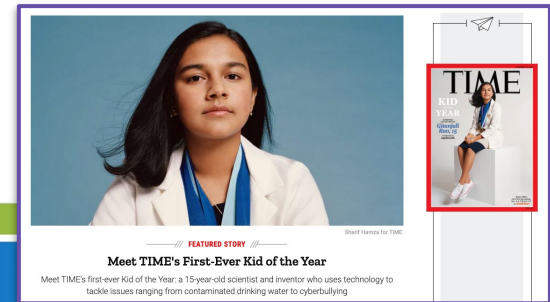Some of the highlights from our flagship campus:

- No. 1 out of 60 Public Elementary Schools in Douglas County
- No. 5 out of 84 Charter Elementary Schools in Denver Area
- No. 8 out of 142 Charter Elementary Schools in Colorado
- No. 179 out of 3,792 Charter Elementary Schools in America

The above is data from the Fall of 2020 by Niche. Niche is an organization that provides the best place to research U.S. colleges, schools, neighborhoods, and companies. Niche rankings are based on rigorous analysis of data and reviews.

Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow

Unleashing Every Student's Potential

More highlights from our flagship campus:

- 95.8% Achievement Rating by CDE (2019 was last year data was available due to COVID)

- 5 John J. Irwin School of Excellence Awards

- 7th in the State for SAT scores

- 86% of K-2 students were at or above grade-level in reading in the Spring of 2021.

- 79% of K-2 students were at or above grade-level in math in the Spring of 2021.

- 46.1% Ethnic Diversity of Students

- First-ever Time Kid of the Year

FEATURED STORY

Meet TIME's First-Ever Kid of the Year

Meet TIME's first-ever Kid of the Year: a 15-year-old scientist and inventor who uses technology to tackle issues ranging from contaminated drinking water to cyberbullying

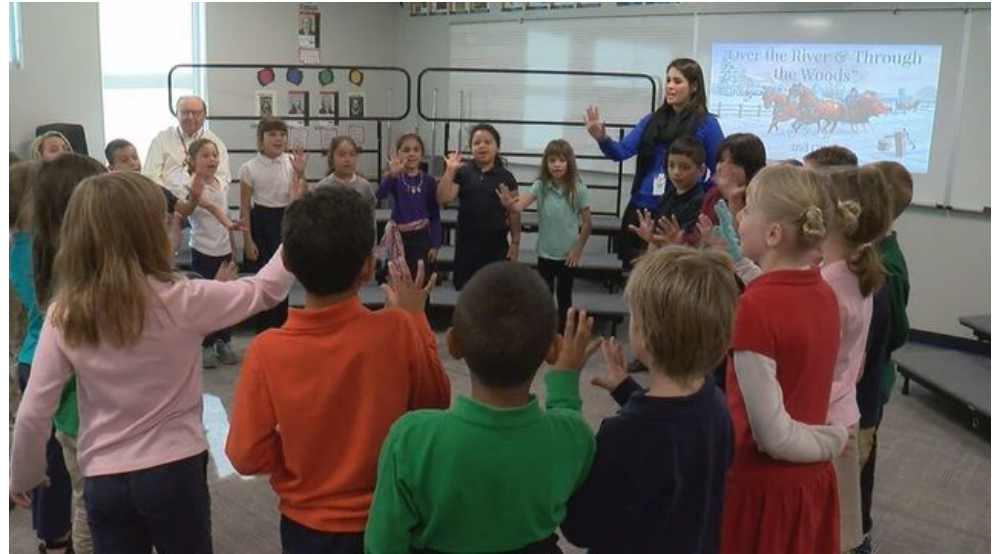Douglas County School District
Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow

Leman Classical Academy

Dr. Jason Edwards, Jim Christensen and Team

10 minutes presentation / 10 minute Q&A

Leman Academy of Excellence "offers a rigorous classical education…"

Classical: a time-tested curriculum and approach

"where all disciplines are interrelated allowing scholars the ability to think independently and critically…"

Thinking: richness, connections, analysis, and depth

"we purpose to partner with supportive parents, pursue excellence, provide a safe and challenging environment…"

Whole-person:

positive relationships

produce healthy growth

"instill morals and values in order to produce tomorrow's leaders"

Wisdom and Virtue:

the end goal of our program

CU Boulder's Climate & Culture Survey Results

RESPONSES	School Results	CO Results
K-5: Feel Safe at School	94.8%	86.5%
6-8: Feel Safe at School	95.9	81.5%
School Climate	3.53	2.95
Staff Morale	3.62	3.07
Strong Academic Orientation	3.58	2.81
Community and Parent Engagement	3.52	2.70

Enrollment	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
K-8	*495*	*748*	*881*	*1040*

'Performing' designation on Colo. Dept. of Education's School Performance Framework

Proven **financial** stability and viability

Positive **partnership** with DCSD and local schools

89% staff retention over 4 years

School Accountability Survey: **93.24%** of families recommend LAE to friends and family

958 scholars intend to enroll at a second Leman Academy campus within driving distance