



Five Oaks Academy

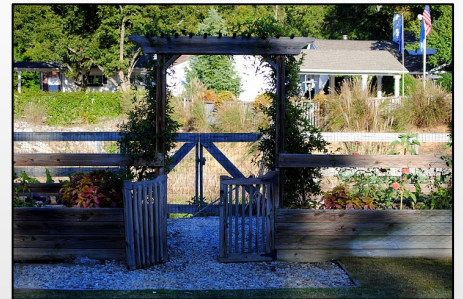
A Montessori School

Minds Opened Here!

Enrollment

2012-2013

Academic Year



"Highly creative achievers don't begin with brilliant ideas, they discover them."

- Peter Sims, Journalist



Dear Prospective Parents,

Welcome to Five Oaks Academy and thank you for visiting our school. Each year we reflect on ways to better our academic program. This year we are introducing two additional weeks of school and two additional breaks, a Fall Break (1 week) and a Winter Break (1 week). Much research and evaluation of the way students learn and the way they rejuvenate themselves has influenced the changes we are making to our 2012-2013 calendar.

In addition to the new calendar proposal we are introducing two new tuition options to help with the financial needs of our parents. A tuition deposit will be due with re-enrollment, but not the full 1/10th tuition. In addition to the new discounts for early payment we introduced last year, we will offer a 12-month payment plan with payments beginning August 1, 2012. To help with the cost of tuition, we did not raise rates for our Toddler and Primary Programs and modestly raised our Elementary and Middle School Programs by 3%. In the event a family leaves Five Oaks Academy, we have added a graduated refund payment schedule as well. I hope these steps provide financial assistance. Our Annual Fund will continue to offer scholarships and we have proposed additional smaller scholarships that will be available to help with the increase of academic/financial commitment.

Included in your Open House Tour Packet is a wonderful article from the Wall Street Journal recognizing the attributes of a Montessori education in a global economy. Our mission in education is to prepare our students to have initiative and to problem-solve in an ever-changing world. Self-confidence and creative thinking are two aspects of education that Five Oaks Academy strives to instill in each of our students. Much of the Montessori method inspires leadership and social confidence. Peter Sims' article concludes that the importance of a Montessori education rests on teaching students how to learn.

As you explore our campus and evaluate your child's educational path, I encourage you to look at 21st century learning challenges and how well a Montessori education meets those needs. Take time to visit our website, www.fiveoaksacademy.com and see the many articles about our method and the Five Oaks' experience.

On February 21 at 6:00pm we are hosting a national child development and behavior expert, Kathryn Kvols, to speak on Redirecting Children's Behavior and Fostering Open Communication. Kathryn is attending as part of our Parent Lecture Series sponsored by our Annual Fund to encourage life-long learning with our faculty and parents. I invite you to attend this lecture and to visit our campus as much as possible to see the amazing dynamics of each classroom.

Peace,

Kathleen Trehella-Grant, Executive Director



Modified 21st Century Academic Calendar 2012-2013

August 10 - Orientation - New Students, Transitioning Students

August 13 - All Students Return

September 3 - Labor Day

October 1 – 5 Fall Break

November 6 - Election Day

November 21, 22, 23 - Thanksgiving Break

December 17 - January 2 - Holiday Break

January 18 - Teacher Work Day

January 21 - Martin Luther King Day

February 4 – 8 Winter Break

February 18 - President's Day

April 1 - 5 - Spring Break *

April 8 – Possible Snow Day

May 27 - Memorial Day

June 7 - Last Day of School

June 10 – Possible Snow Day

June 10, 11 – Parent/Teacher Conferences

August 9 - 2013-2014 Academic Year Start Date

***Subject to change depending on Greenville County School System's Spring Break**

8 week Summer Break

1 week Fall Break

1 week Winter Break

(2 weeks of additional education)



The calendar proposal is derived from years of observation at Five Oaks Academy. The faculty and I have observed the amount of time it takes for MAP testing, the return of lost academic information during our long summer break, the fatigue experienced during mid-semester, and the business of May that disrupts normal learning. As we explore 21st Century learning goals and the Montessori curriculum, we also have a desire to increase research time for our students.

Calendar Benefits for our Students

- Allows more time for MAP Testing so that it does not disrupt Montessori lessons. Our goal is to complete MAP in August so there will be no disruptions in September.
- More meaningful breaks: the two additional breaks help rejuvenate students and faculty during mid-semester and the shorter summer break help with retention.
- We will give less homework during the summer break to give families more time without interruptions.
- In the Elementary and Middle School Programs, the curriculum is so rich that we need more time for creative and research-oriented learning and projects. This year we launched the Creative Arts Program with Ms. Jill to increase creativity time with the Arts.
- The month of May will have fewer disruptions with the new proposal and graduations could take place at the end of May and first week of June.
- Starting earlier in August gives us more time to work through transitions with students as they adjust to a new classroom or just return to an academic setting after being out of school for the summer.