



Raleigh Charter High School

www.raleighcharterhs.org

Thomas E. Humble, Principal,
English Teacher



Raleigh Charter High School's Unique Mission and Culture

- Active, Social, Creative learning
- Citizenship education
 - Developing informed, active citizens
- Rigorous college preparation
 - Enriched, expansive curriculum
- Teachers who are passionate experts in their fields
- Small size—small school, small classes



Active, social, creative learning

- Active learning in classes
- Ex Days (Extended-Period Days)
- Flex Days (Flexible-Schedule Days)
- Welcoming community guests
- Using resources of Downtown Raleigh



Ex(tended-Period) Days

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| ■ <i>Ex Days</i> | Thursday | Friday |
| ■ 9:00-10:35 | 1 st | 2 nd |
| ■ 10:40-10:45 | Advisory | Advisory |
| ■ 10:50-12:25 | 3 rd | 4 th |
| ■ 12:30-12:55 | Lunch | Lunch |
| ■ 1:00-2:40 | 5 th | 6 th |



Flex(ible Schedule) Days

| | First Friday | Second Friday |
|------------|--------------|------------------|
| 9:00-11:30 | History | Foreign Language |
| 12:05-2:40 | Science | Math |



Citizenship Education

- Citizenship Service Days
- Honor System
- Civics Curriculum
 - We The People
 - Project Citizen
- Citizenship Retreats
 - Center for the Constitution at James Madison's Montpelier
- Teacher-Student Interactions



Setting High Expectations in a College-Preparatory High School

- Readiness for Algebra I or higher in Grade 9
- In order to graduate, students must have four math courses in high school: the minimal requirement is Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and Advanced Functions and Modeling.
- Homework:
 - Most courses: 20-30 minutes per course per night
 - AP: 30-45 minutes per course per night



Stretch Learning

- Breaking down traditional barriers
 - Pre-Calc Club and Calculus III
 - Sophomores Sit for AP Gov't and Politics
 - Flexibility in Foreign Language Placement
- No busy work
- Students counseled by several people:
 - Subject Teacher
 - Advisor
 - Academic Dean



Stretch Learning

- Differentiated curriculum: Most courses taught at Advanced (Honors), Enriched (Gifted), or AP levels
- To graduate, students must take four years of math and at least two years of foreign language (NC College-Prep Diploma)
- No class rank, no valedictorian
 - Students' interests drive their selecting courses



Stretch Learning

- Playing on the Abstract/Concrete Continuum
- Playing with Metacognition
 - What is the most important word in this paragraph?
 - What is the most important element of this lesson?
- Playing with Cognitive Dissonance
 - The Essence of Stretch Learning



College Counseling

- Colleges know our academic program well.
- We foster relationships with colleges.
 - We publish a school profile and a curriculum guide.
 - College representatives visit RCHS.
 - Our counselors are involved in and experienced in the profession of college counseling.
 - Our counselors visit colleges and attend national, regional, and state conferences.
- The essence of college counseling is finding a great college match.



Teachers

- In-depth hiring process
 - Departmental collaboration and initiative
 - Four-step process
 - Two lessons
 - Two interviews
- Profile of Teachers
 - Experts in their fields
 - Teachers who know answers or admit they do not
 - Kind, open, flexible, introspective individuals



Teachers

- New Teacher Training
 - Two days of orienting teachers to school
 - Topical discussion over next five days
 - Ongoing meetings with new teachers
- Random Access Points for Support of New Teachers



Teachers

- Teachers manage their professional development
 - Independent studies
 - Conferences
 - Departmental retreats and in-services
 - Self assessment and professional growth plan



Small School, Small Size

- Students feel empowered
 - Curricular
 - Extracurricular
- Students feel that they are a part of a learning community
- Students feel physically, emotionally, socially, and academically safe



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