

# SCHOOL CULTURE

Raleigh Charter High School takes into consideration the developmental needs of adolescents in multiple ways. The school day begins at 9 a.m., as research has shown that the adolescent brain is alert and awake by then. Our six 45-minute class periods a day acknowledge the dynamic attention spans of teenagers. The average class size is 19, and students take courses for an entire school year. This allows our faculty and staff to know each of our students and build strong teacher-student relationships.

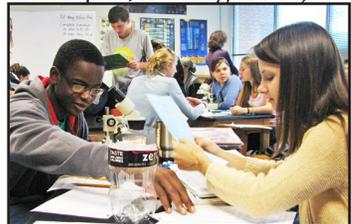


Raleigh Charter High School students are encouraged to value learning for its own sake, challenge themselves, and support their peers.

Students at Raleigh Charter freely collaborate and express their knowledge or questions without fear of judgment or failure. The atmosphere is one of respect, empathy, support, and curiosity.

## PROGRAMS

Flex Days provide students with opportunities for learning outside of the classroom. On two consecutive Fridays — one pair in the fall and one in the winter — students participate in four separate 2½ hour sessions in a variety of disciplines. On one of these Flex Days, you might find students teaching fractions to local elementary school students using lesson plans they developed, hearing from Joe Holt, one of the heroes



of the Civil Rights Movement in North Carolina, or visiting the Prairie Ridge Ecosystem to study biodiversity.

Community Work Days provide students with the chance to contribute to a cause they care about through authentic service learning. Each year, students sign up for one of 30 Community Work Day programs and they work with that same mixed-grade-level group throughout the year. Community Work Day groups complete projects ranging from awareness campaigns to direct support for nonprofit organizations. For example, students develop literacy programs that they share with local elementary schools, host a quiz bowl for middle-school students, volunteer at poverty-relief organizations, or help revitalize Raleigh city parks.



These two unique programs allow students to engage in experiences that are outside of their regular schedules while providing the opportunity for students to explore their interests during the school day.

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For more information, visit us at [www.raleighcharterhs.org](http://www.raleighcharterhs.org)

**Raleigh Charter High School**  
1307 Glenwood Avenue  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27605  
919-715-1155

# Raleigh Charter High School



“Engaged Learners.  
Contributing Citizens.”

## THE BASICS

Since opening its doors in 1999, Raleigh Charter High School has emerged as a nationally recognized leader in active, social and creative learning with its unique school culture, curricular innovations, emphasis on civic education and rigorous college-preparatory curriculum. With approximately 560 students and a 19:1 student-to-teacher ratio, students enjoy individualized attention from our caring and talented teachers and college counselors. Educators at RCHS foster a love of learning and civic engagement in their students through challenging and meaningful coursework and unique programs.



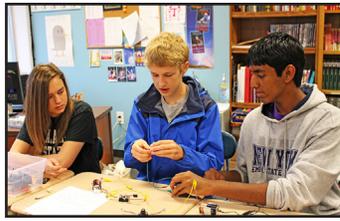
Raleigh Charter High School is a **free and independent public school** chartered by the North Carolina State Board of Education.

We are primarily funded through county and state per-pupil allotments and fundraising. As a charter school, we do **not** receive funding for our property from federal, state or county governments. All students are admitted through a lottery system. Over the last five years, due to space limitations, we were only able to admit approximately 10% of non-sibling lottery applicants.

## BY THE NUMBERS

In our 20-year history, RCHS has garnered a number of awards and recognition, including the following:

- The U.S. Department of Education named RCHS as a **2014 National Blue Ribbon School** as an **Exemplary High Performing School**.



- Since its founding RCHS has been recognized by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction with **School of Distinction, School of Excellence, Honor School of Excellence**, or a grade of A on the school report card.
- Our highest **national rankings** include:
  - 9<sup>th</sup> (*America's Best High Schools*, Newsweek, 2005)
  - 20<sup>th</sup> (*Best High Schools in the U.S.*, US News & Reports, 2008)
  - 55<sup>th</sup> (*America's Most Challenging High Schools*, Washington Post, 2011)
- RCHS has been identified as **one of five high schools in the nation recognized for proven and promising practices** by the Model Schools Network (Network of the International Center for Leadership in Education, Rexford, NY).
- The following Raleigh Charter teams have qualified and been invited to attend national competitions:
  - Science Olympiad
  - Science Bowl
  - Quiz Bowl
  - Ocean Science Bowl
  - Mock Trial
  - We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution
- In 2018, 337 students in grades 9-12 took 923 AP exams in 21 areas; **94% of them received scores of 3 (passing) or better**.
- Students from our 17 graduating classes have been accepted to more than **350 unique colleges**.
- The Class of 2018 was awarded over **\$7 million in scholarships**.
- Faculty are experts in their disciplines, **with 2/3 of teachers holding a degree in an advanced subject area**. With 744 combined years of teaching



experience, they average **over 16 years of classroom experience per teacher**.

## OUR CURRICULUM

With four types of courses, students can find a balance to best suit their learning style and curricular goals. RCHS enriches the North Carolina Standard Course of Study by offering 25 standard, 41 honors, 5 enriched honors and 19 Advanced Placement courses. For each class, students have roughly 20-30 minutes of homework (30-45 minutes in AP courses) per course per night. Through this important regular, independent work, students practice concepts or prepare for the next days' lessons. Teachers do not assign busywork.



In the classroom, faculty teach resilience through critical thinking skills, and they develop the collaborative abilities of students through project-based learning. Built on a foundation of citizenship education, Raleigh Charter's curriculum educates "knowledgeable, thoughtful, contributing" high-school graduates who not only are exceptionally prepared for college, but will also seek to improve the world around them through leadership and civic engagement.



Citizenship education is woven into the fabric of the school. Students experience firsthand the values of acceptance, kindness and civil

discourse as they listen to diverse opinions in class, work with students in varying grade levels to form clubs and host events and collaborate with faculty members on Community Work Days. Although our school does not require community service hours to graduate, two school days per year are designated as school-wide service days and students often use this experience to get involved and develop ongoing relationships with local community organizations.