OUR LEADERSHIP

Mary Moss Brown
Head of School

- Experienced teacher and principal at all levels, in many different types of schools
- Experienced school founder

Vikki Tunick
Assistant Head of School

- Experienced teacher, curriculum designer, and coach
- Bilingual speaker
OUR DREAM

A school where we wanted to send our own children:

- Small & nurturing
- Diverse
- Joyful & meaningful work
- Exposure to the City & resources
- Bilingual approach
Charlotte Lab School uses the city as our classroom to provide an rigorous project based curriculum in a small nurturing environment, where students also learn a second language.
Charlotte Resources are our Expanded Classroom

Exposure to what’s possible

Learn from and alongside experts in various fields

Develop skills for life beyond college

Partnerships: Discovery Place and Children’s Theater of Charlotte
ENGAGING INSTRUCTION

- Aligned to prepare students for high school and college
- Content taught through projects and real world challenges – Authentic Application of 21st Century Skills
- Unique Physical Space of the Learning Environment
- Individualized Learning Lab and Flexible Grouping in Classes enable students to work on “just-right” level
- Use of Technology to Enhance Learning
Knowing Students

- Through our **advisory program**, every adult in the building will be responsible for a group of 12-13 students — a “family” at school

- **Know your child well** — work that’s too easy and too challenging; your child will have a **Personalized Learning Plan**

- Meet regularly; time and content **adjusted for age and development** at each grade level

- Teach your child **Mindfulness Techniques** to help them adapt socially & emotionally to various situations

- **Communicate** with you about struggles & triumphs
Every student can become conversationally fluent in Spanish or Mandarin by the end of 8th grade.

Early learning of a second language is research-proven to lead to higher student achievement.

Bilingualism provides students with a competitive advantage.

Learning about another culture promotes global and cultural awareness.
We believe in:

- **Innovation** - Schools should adapt to the needs of students and make learning relevant since our world and workplace is constantly changing.

- **Flexibility** - Families should have options; all schools are not the right “fit” for every child.

- **Diversity** - This model is possible with ALL kids — diversity enriches the experience for all students.
HOW IS IT POSSIBLE?

Similar Models

- Chicago Lab School
- Lab School, Manhattan
- Science Leadership Academy, Philadelphia
- High Tech High, Middle & Elementary
- Community School of Davidson

NYC iSchool
**School size:**
- Currently have 280 students in grades K-4
- We will grow to serve 540 students in grades K-8 over the next 5 years

**Class size:**
- K-2: largest classes each day has 21 students
- 3-4: largest classes each day has 25 students
ABOUT LAB

Uniform School:
• Any solid color shirt with a color; khaki or navy bottoms

School calendar:
• Closely mirrors CMS calendar: August 24-June 3

Daily schedule:
• 8:15am to 3:45pm, with extended hours from 7:45am (early drop off) to 5:45pm (after school care)
QUESTIONS?

- What is a Charter School?
- What is a Lab School?
- What services does Charlotte Lab School provide?
- What enrichment opportunities does the school provide?
- Is Lab a good fit for your family?

To learn more, visit: www.charlottelabschool.org
What is a charter school?

- Tuition-free, public school

- Governed by an independent Board of Directors that reports directly to NC Department of Public Instruction

- Funding
  - Funding from NC state for each student
  - 501©3 non-profit organization
  - Eligible for grants and fundraising opportunities

- Open to ALL kids – no admissions requirements

- 100% lottery enrollment process
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THE LAB SCHOOL MODEL

Partners in the learning process

A school designed like life

A cooperative community

Views learning as a social process
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SERVICES & SUPPORT

Transportation:
- Currently contracted 2 school buses serving approx. 145 students
- Cluster stops located throughout the city

Lunch:
- Contracted catering provided by Wholesome Tummies; fresh and healthy school lunch meals
- Complimentary Lunch Program available to families who qualify

Charlotte Lab School is committed to ensuring access to these and other support services for ANY/ALL students/families who wish to attend our school!
SERVICES & SUPPORT

After School Programs:
After School care provided from 3:45pm – 5:45pm
Yoga; Taekwondo; Music is Fun; Soccer Shots; Play Spanish; Children’s Theater; Robotics;

Special Education Services:
As a public school, Lab School provides all services required by a student’s IEP or 504

Charlotte Lab School is committed to ensuring access to these supports and services for ANY/ALL students/families who wish to attend our school!
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ENRICHMENT

- Each student rotates through Art, Music, Drama, & Maker Lab as a 9 week project-based enrichment experience.
- 45 minutes of Physical Education is offered daily; students rotate through Lab Fit; Sports Skills; Taekwondo; Golf; Street Dance; Ballroom Dance, etc.
- 20 mins of Recess/Free Play everyday.
- New First Ward Park as our green space.
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JUST RIGHT FIT

Your family should consider the following points as you think about whether Charlotte Lab School is a good fit for your child:

1. Changing classes daily – beginning in Kindergarten, all students have a homeroom, and they transition to different content classes during the day.

2. Subject area teachers – your family will maintain contact and manage school work from multiple teachers.
3. **Direct contact with advisors** – your child’s advisor serves as your primary liaison with the school; knows and supports your child socially, emotionally, & academically

4. **Homework Philosophy** – we believe homework should only be assigned when it is meaningful and will be checked by teachers; it is assigned weekly so families have flexibility when determining when to get it done
5. **Differentiated instruction** – it may be frustrating for some students to know and see that everyone is not doing the same thing

6. **Flexible Walls** – sound and movement can be challenging and somewhat distracting for students who may have difficulty focusing on their own
7. **Limited Green Space** – recess and free play looks different for our students because we do not have a large playground space yet; occasionally groups may walk to First Ward Park

8. **Comfort with Walking Trips** – our students, faculty, and volunteers walk in/around Uptown weekly; we do everything we can to ensure their safety on these trips
9. **Start Up Organization** – we are constantly learning and making improvements to our school processes and communication; we appreciate constructive feedback from parents, but recognize that adjusting to changes may be difficult for some families.

10. **Encourage Volunteering** – we want ALL families to engage with us and believe that parents/guardians should volunteer in ways that make sense for your family.
WHAT’S NEXT?

- Official application period is **January 4th – February 26th**:

  - **Sibling Policy** – we offer admissions preference to siblings of students currently enrolled, *if seats are available*

  - Separate Application from CMS Magnet Schools

  - Lottery held on March 14th
Other Questions?

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