



Frequently Asked Questions

Admitted Families Edition

When will the school building be ready?

The intended building located at 301 E 9th Street will require a 90-day construction period, primarily involving installation of restrooms and upgrading HVAC systems. We plan to begin work in April and file for our Certificate of Occupancy by mid-July.

What outdoor space is available for recess and physical activity?

There is “black-top” space directly behind the building that we hope to convert into an on-site play area. We also will have an indoor play area and physical activity room. The First Ward Park, currently being built right across the street from the school, will be finished in October and we plan to regularly use this green space. To read more about the plans for this great addition to the First Ward neighborhood, visit: www.levineproperties.com.

Where will students have recess? Will students have opportunities throughout the day to move around?

Students will have opportunities for physical activity every day. During a daily 45-minute physical activity period at lunchtime, students will participate in an activity of their choice. In addition to the ongoing movement inherent in an experiential educational model, students will shift into different groups throughout the day and will have occasional “brain breaks” during which they will engage in movement and mindfulness activities.

What is the plan for transportation stops and routes? Does my family have to pay for transportation?

Once we receive enrollment forms and transportation preferences, we will begin mapping routes. We will make final determination of routes and specific stops later this spring once our enrollment is finalized. We hope to be able to accommodate all families who request transportation but will not be able to make all stops. There is no required payment for transportation, however we ask that any family who plans to use transportation and is able, to consider making a donation to the school in the amount of \$50 monthly or \$500 for the year to help us cover this expense.

How will you ensure student safety given the school’s Uptown location?

As with most schools, Charlotte Lab School’s doors will remain locked at all times. Visitors will be required to “buzz in” to the building and sign in at our main office. We will utilize a computer sign-in system and following protocols for background checks, etc. for all adults who have direct contact with our students.

How will you keep students safe when off-campus?

The safety of our students and faculty will be our priority at all times. We will take a multi-faceted approach to safety by raising awareness, putting in place thoughtful protocols, and preparing students through frequent discussion and practice drills. We also hope to have parent volunteers to accompany us on our walking trips.



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When can we sign up for after school programs? How much will they cost?

Afterschool programs will be offered on-site daily until 5:30pm and costs will be based on the course. We expect the max to be \$250 per semester but will offer financial assistance for those who qualify. We are still in the process of identifying and coordinating with partner organizations and will rely on family feedback on the Enrollment Forms to finalize offerings. We are also working on coordinating afterschool transportation to requested child care centers.

How will Charlotte Lab School provide Talent Development services?

Generally, our model - which focuses on critical thinking and creative problem solving - is an effective and preferred strategy for high achieving and gifted students. Students will also have opportunities in literacy, mathematics and foreign language to work at a level and towards mastery of concepts appropriate for them. We do plan to have a part-time teacher certified to work with students labeled "TD" who will be available to provide additional services and curriculum if needed.

Where is Charlotte Lab School with the teacher hiring process?

We are excited to have received many great applications for all positions. Candidates have participated in a rigorous, multi-step process which includes collaborative planning and a video-taped or modeled lesson. We will be finalizing decisions and making offers through mid-March and will hold our faculty planning retreat in May.

What is the cost of lunch? Will breakfast be available? How will you handle allergies?

Lunch will be provided by a Johnson & Wales-trained chef who currently runs the kitchen at Project 658. A healthy, nut-free daily lunch will be available for about \$3. Breakfast will be available depending on feedback from the Enrollment Forms. We will assign nut-free eating spaces in each Learning Commons, where students will eat their lunches.

What is the Charlotte Lab School uniform and is there a specific place where we need to purchase it?

Our uniform includes any solid colored collared shirt and navy or khaki bottoms, with complete descriptions of the options on our website. Families do not need to purchase their uniforms at any particular store, nor do uniform shirts have to have the school logo. However, Lands End does have a program through which our school can earn a percentage of sales and does have a copy of our logo.

I am still on the waitlist. When will I know if my child has a seat?

We expect to notify some families beginning in early March, after accepted families have completed the enrollment process. We also anticipate that families' plans will change throughout the spring and summer; as seats open up, we will notify the next family on the waitlist. We will continue to accept families off of the waitlist through late September. We encourage all families to remain on our mailing list and to check in with us periodically.