

Mark West Charter School



Chartered by
Mark West Union School District

Extending Our Academic Excellence Through
the Middle Grades

2009-2010 School Year Application Packet

Mark West Charter School
5350 Faught Rd.
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
707-524-2741

www.mwcharter.org

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Admission Requirements

The determination of school capacity shall be based on the school's academic program, the school's fiscal viability, the educational needs of currently enrolled students, the capacity of the school site and the level of interest shown by students who want to attend the school.

The charter school shall not charge an application fee nor shall it charge tuition. The charter school shall be nonsectarian in its admission and enrollment policies and shall not discriminate against any student on the basis of ethnicity, national origin, gender, or disability.

The Mark West Charter School will actively recruit a diverse student population from the district and surrounding areas who understand and value the school's mission and are committed to the school's instructional and operational philosophy. Admission to the school shall be open to any resident of the State of California. Prospective students and their parents or guardians will be briefed regarding the school's instructional and operational philosophy and will be informed of the school's student-related policies. The school will establish an annual recruiting and admissions cycle, which shall include reasonable time for all of the following: (1) outreach and marketing, (2) orientation sessions for parents and students, (3) an admissions application period, (4) an admissions lottery if necessary, and (5) enrollment. The school may fill vacancies or openings that become available after this process using either a waiting list or any other non-discriminatory process.

In the event that the number of students seeking admission to any grade or class exceeds capacity, the school shall have the right to grant priority in admissions to siblings of current students, children of staff, and residents of the charter-granting district or county. The school may also grant admission preference to school founders, as defined by the school's governing board, provided that students admitted under a founders' preference shall not constitute more than 25 percent of the school's enrollment.

Enrollment in the Mark West Charter School requires the following:

- Parent/Guardian and students will complete and submit Application Questionnaires and Registration forms
- Students and parents must sign an agreement indicating that they understand and are committed to the Mark West Charter School's program, policies, expected outcomes, and philosophy.
- Student Profile must be submitted by the student's current teacher
- Student will take a math readiness test in the spring

Existing students of the Mark West Charter School who have successfully honored the student pledge and policies of MWCS will be guaranteed a placement for the following year.

Important Dates for 2009 – 2010 Year

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| November 1, 2008 | Application Packets Available Online and at the MWCS Office |
| November 19, 2008 | Information Night @ 7 PM |
| January 15, 2009 | Information Night @ 6 PM |
| February 24, 2009 | Information Night @ 7 PM |
| March 2, 2009 | Priority Application Deadline |
| March 3, 2009 | Applications now accepted first-come, first-served until filled |
| March 16, 2009 | Lottery Drawing if necessary |
| April 2009 | Acceptance Letters Mailed |
| April/May 2009 | Student/ Parent Meetings |
| August 2009 | Student Orientation |
| August 2009 | Classes Begin |

** Students may spend a day on campus shadowing another student. Please call for an appointment **

Mission and Goals

Core Purpose

We are the charter school for those who choose:

- Education through high academics
- An environment that is physically and psychologically safe

Where:

- The gift in every child is recognized and supported
- Young adults are educated to become citizens that make a difference in the world

Mission Statement: Through strong family involvement, community interaction and project-based learning, Mark West Charter School will develop lifelong learners prepared to be innovative participants in the global community. The Mark West Charter School for will create an academically rich curriculum where all students meet rigorous standards by blending a traditional classroom centered program with an independent study program that includes days on campus. Mark West Charter School will offer a traditional classroom based program for grades 7 & 8 and an Independent Home Study program for grades K – 8, which will include a day on campus program and/or electives on campus.

The school is committed to:

- ✓ partnering staff, students, parents and community to create a unique, challenging and individualized learning environment with an accelerated, academically rich curriculum for all students
- ✓ providing a safe, nurturing environment located within district boundaries featuring a small teacher to student ratio
- ✓ developing self-motivated, self-disciplined and socially responsible students
- ✓ applying academic learning to real-life activities through project-oriented programs
- ✓ providing advanced opportunities in science, technology, languages and the arts
- ✓ building programs that foster thinking which is original, critical, collaborative and reflective
- ✓ respecting diversity and the developing student - cognitive, emotional, social and physical
- ✓ offer an educational experience that prepares pupils for successful learning opportunities after middle school
- ✓ Creating a haven where students have the opportunity to build sustained, caring relationships with their teachers, peers and other community members

This mission statement reflects the vision developed by the original Mark West Charter Development Team, reassessed by the Mark West Charter School Renewal Committee, and approved by the Mark West Charter School Board of Directors. This vision identifies three elements critical to developing educated children who are well prepared for the 21st century: strong academics, community interaction and family involvement. The result will be an academically demanding, community-connected program with strong family involvement creating a unique learning community blending the strengths of both students educated full time in the regular classroom and students educated at home. To implement this vision requires eight components that address one or more of these key elements:

- **Standards** – Students excel when standards are high and when academic achievement is valued. All students will be expected to perform at their highest level and to excel in the content areas outlined in the state curriculum standards.
- **Family Participation** – Students understand the importance of learning when they experience their family investing time in supporting that effort. Families will contribute in a variety of significant ways to support both their own children’s efforts to excel and to enhance the learning experiences of all students at the school.
- **Project-based Learning** – Knowledge is best retained when it is used. Students will develop and acquire new skills by participating in interactive projects, hands-on learning activities and field trips into the community. Project oriented programs allow students to learn and apply academics to real-life activities so that knowledge is meaningful, long lasting and effective.
- **Technology** – In today’s society, technology plays a significant role in everyday life and global affairs. Every student will have ready access to technology and will learn to use it for research, analysis, communication, organization and self-expression.
- **Formal Enrichment Activities** -- All students will benefit from regular exposure to a variety of programs such as foreign language, life skills, physical education, music and other fine arts.
- **Community Connection** – Public schools must produce knowledgeable and involved citizens. Students will learn to understand their connection to the community and their responsibilities as members. The curriculum will incorporate service learning projects and community-based, hands-on activities.
- **Diversity** – Citizens of the 21st century need a concrete understanding of the diversity of language and culture in both their immediate community and the world.
- **Personalization** – At Mark West Charter School each student will be well known and valued as an individual with his/her specific needs taken into consideration.

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MWCS Student, Parent and Faculty Pledge

It is important that families and schools work together to help students achieve high academic and character standards. The following are agreed upon roles and responsibilities that we as partners will carry out to support student success in school and life. We understand that fulfilling these responsibilities is considered an important way for all of us to support our school.

By signing this pledge, we are each committed to working together for our success. Each of us has an important role to play in order to create a positive and productive learning environment. The extent to which we each do our part determines our success.

Student Pledge

As a student I will:

- Maintain a good attendance record and commit to the academic calendar.
- Effectively utilize all of the time in the school day.
- Bring all the materials I need to work at school.
- Show responsibility and trustworthiness in all that I do.
- Communicate with my parents daily about school so they can be informed and can help me when I need it.
- Commit myself to completing my assignments on time and in a quality manner.
- Treat everyone with respect.
- Participate in service learning projects.
- Use all technology wisely and appropriately.
- Set goals for my learning and my participation in the community.
- Abide by the school rules and conduct myself in a responsible manner.
- *Dream* about the future I want, *learn* with the desire for success, and *achieve* the goals I set for myself.

Student Signature: _____

Parent Pledge

As a parent or guardian I will:

- Demonstrate to my child through my actions and deeds that learning and education are important.
- Commit to the academic calendar and ensure my child's regular school attendance.
- Appreciate that the extended school day provides opportunities for extended learning within the school day and therefore may minimize the need for homework time.
- Uphold expectations set by the school
- Send my child to school with all needed supplies.
- Support and participate in school activities.
- Provide a minimum of 40 hours of volunteer time to the school per family per year or donate \$10/hr in lieu of time.
- Support service learning opportunities.
- Support technology use
- Update myself regularly about my child's progress, and if I have questions or concerns, contact the staff.
- Treat everyone with respect.
- Help my child to develop *dreams* for the future and support the *learning* process needed to *achieve* those dreams.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Faculty Pledge

As a member of Mark West Charter School staff we will:

- Ensure quality education for every student, addressing each child's learning modality.
- Communicate and hold high expectations for every student.
- Endeavor to motivate our students to learn.
- Teach and involve students in classes that are interesting, challenging and relevant.
- Provide a safe learning environment for all students.
- Communicate regularly with families regarding student progress.
- Provide opportunities for parents to volunteer at school and at home.
- Work with parents to resolve difficulties so that the students can be successful.
- Continue to research new educational theories and apply best practices.
- Treat everyone with respect.

Faculty Signature: _____

MWCS Student Application Questionnaire

Name: _____ Date: _____

Current School: _____ Current Grade: _____

Please answer the following questions in **ink** and in your **own handwriting**. You may **use a dictionary** for correct spelling and word selection. Answers should be limited to the space provided. Thank you.

1. Why are you interested in becoming a student at the Mark West Charter School?

2. List three of your ideas for interesting academic learning experiences and three ideas for enrichment or fun.

Academic Learning

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Enrichment/Fun

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

3. What do you feel are your greatest challenge and greatest strength in school?

4. What have you liked about school in the past and what are your hopes for the next two years?

Mark West Charter School Student Profile

(To be filled out by current teacher, may be submitted separately)

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this student profile. Please return this form to either the student, or directly to Mark West Charter School, 5350 Faught Rd., Santa Rosa, CA 95403 or FAX 707-524-2782. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 707-524-2741.

Student Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Grade: _____ School: _____

District: _____ Teacher's Name: _____

Expected to meet grade level promotional standards? Yes No

Please indicate by placing an X on the continuums above each level that best describes this student:

Attendance

Good Fair Poor

Homework Habits

Consistent Inconsistent Poor

Math Ability

Ready for Algebra (above grade level) Ready for Pre-Algebra (at grade level) Difficulty with Math (below grade level)

Group Work/Cooperation

Usually a leader Situational, acts accordingly Usually a follower Uninvolved

Self-Directedness/Organization

Good Average Poor

Additional Comments:

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MARK WEST CHARTER SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM

Child's LEGAL Name: _____
Last First Middle

SEX: M F _____
Date of Birth Place of Birth (city/state) Grade Entering

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Date of Entry to United States from Mexico (if applicable): _____

Parent's email: _____

Previous School: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: () _____

Student resides with: (please check)
 Father Mother Step-Father Step-Mother Foster Parent(s) Other: _____

Mother/Guardian's Name: _____
Last First Relationship

Father/Guardian's Name: _____
Last First Relationship

Other's Name: _____
Last First Relationship

Does your child have MEDICAL or HEALTH problems we should be aware of? Yes No
If YES, please complete appropriate area on EMERGENCY FORM and attach any additional information needed.

Is there any LEGAL or GUARDIANSHIP information about your child we should be aware of? Yes No
If YES, attach copies of application LEGAL DOCUMENTS. These documents must be on file in the school office.

Is your child currently under an EXCLUSION ORDER or has s/he ever been expelled from school? Yes No
If YES, please explain: _____

Highest education level by either parent/guardian (Information needed for State Testing)

Graduate school / Post-graduate training College graduate Some college (includes AA Degrees)
 High school graduate Not a high school graduate

Student Programs Survey

Please check any student programs your child has been enrolled in:
 RSP SDC Speech G.A.T.E. Adaptive P.E. Full Inclusion Other None Dates: _____

Brothers, Sisters, Others in Your Home (Please state name, relationship, birth date/grade)

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____

Home Language Survey

The California Education Code requires schools to determine the language(s) spoken at home by each student.

1. What language did your son/daughter learn when he/she first began to talk? _____
2. What language does your son/daughter most frequently use at home? _____
3. What language do you use most frequently to speak to your son/daughter? _____
4. Name the language most often spoken by the adults at home? _____
5. Has your child ever been enrolled in EL Program? If yes, dates: _____

Racial / Ethnic Data

Confidential information needed for Federal/State reports. **Please complete back of form.**

Date Stamp Rec'd _____
Application # _____
Enter Date: _____

 Hep B
 Immunization Record
 Emergency Form
 Review Records/Rights Notif.
 Cum Request (Date: _____)

Parent / Guardian Signature _____ Date _____ MWCS Representative _____ Date _____

Ethnic Data

Confidential information needed for Federal/State reports.

What is your student's ethnicity? (Please check one)

- Hispanic or Latino Not Hispanic or Latino

Racial Data

Confidential information needed for Federal/State reports.

Please select one or more boxes to indicate what you consider your student's race to be.

| | Primary Race Mark ONLY ONE | Other Races Mark ALL THAT APPLY |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| African American or Black (not of Hispanic origin) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| American Indian or Alaskan Native | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Asian | | |
| Chinese | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Japanese | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Korean | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vietnamese | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Asian Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Laotian | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cambodian | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hmong | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Filipino / Filipino American | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pacific Islander | | |
| Native Hawaiian | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Guamanian | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Samoan | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tahitian | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other Pacific Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| White (not of Hispanic origin) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Parent / Guardian Signature

Date