



ACACIA MIDDLE CHARTER SCHOOL



Tri-Valley Learning Corporation

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FAQs about Acacia Community Charter Schools

What is a charter school?

A charter school is a public school, and it may provide instruction in any of grades K-12. A charter school is usually created or organized by a group of teachers, parents and community leaders or a community-based organization, and it is usually sponsored by an existing local public school board or county board of education. Specific goals and operating procedures for the charter school are detailed in an agreement (or "charter") between the sponsoring board and charter organizers.

A charter school is generally exempt from most laws governing school districts, except where specifically noted in the law. California public charter schools are required to participate in the statewide assessment test, called the STAR (Standardized Testing and Reporting) program. The law also requires that a public charter school be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices, and all other operations and prohibits the conversion of a private school to a charter school. Public charter schools may not charge tuition and may not discriminate against any pupil on the basis of ethnicity, national origin, gender, or disability.

What is Acacia Community Charter School?

Acacia Community Charter Elementary School and Acacia Community Charter Middle School is part of Tri-Valley Learning Corporation (TVLC). ACC K-5 and 6-8 schools' petition were approved by New Jerusalem School District. ACC Elementary and Middle Schools first day of school is August 19th.

What is driving the development of the school?

Acacia Community Charter Schools were developed by a diverse group of educators and community members in response to identified needs within the Stockton community. The demand for Tri-Valley Learning Corporation's (TVLC's) high-performing K-8 program (Livermore Valley Charter School), and the specific needs of the underserved population located in geographic proximity of downtown Stockton, led to the development of this unique, high quality program.

How much does it cost to attend Acacia Community Charter School?

Acacia Community Charter Schools are FREE public schools. There is NO tuition.

Are families required to make donations?

No. Families are not required to make donations. Like all public schools, Acacia Community Charter Schools are funded through tax revenue. Additionally, Acacia Community Charter Schools pursue grant monies, parent donations, and holds fundraising events. Parents volunteer in many capacities to help keep costs down. This allows for more of the budget to go towards academic needs.

Acacia Community Charter Schools gratefully accepts donations. All donations are kept strictly anonymous. The faculty has no access to this information. An individual's ability to donate has no impact on the quality of education or attention that their child receives.

Are parents required to volunteer?

At Acacia Community Charter Schools, we ask that our parents do what they can to be active participants in their child's education, as this helps ensure success. Volunteering can take many forms; we are extremely flexible and work closely with our families to find creative and meaningful ways for them to participate in the Acacia Community Charter School community. Families are asked to volunteer 12 hour each trimester.

How are the Acacia Community Charter Schools programs different from the program at Livermore Valley Charter School (LVCS)?

The academic and enrichment opportunities at Acacia are based upon on the highly successfully program at LVCS. The main difference between the two programs is in the program implementation and Spanish/English dual language immersion program. Acacia Community Charter School will have additional support services built into the academic program; this includes a longer school day, tutors, and a learning center.

Will Acacia Community Charter School have a Dual Immersion Program?

We will offer a 50/50 Spanish/English Dual Immersion Program, starting at TK through first grade for the 2013-2014 school year and adding a new grade each year after that.

What type of program will there be for Special Education students?

Acacia Community Charter Schools are committed to serving all students; this includes students with exceptional needs. Our program and instructional strategies will provide equal access to standards-based education for all learners. Differentiated instruction will take place in the classroom in coordination with support and special education services. Delivery of service is in the least restrictive, most appropriate setting; additional pullout instruction, tutoring, learning center, or a special day class setting supports the general education teacher in the general education classroom.

What besides academics will be offered at the Acacia Community Charter Schools?

Amongst other offerings, Acacia Community Charter Elementary School will have the following:

- Music
 - Art
 - Technology
 - Global language
 - Enrichment clubs

Acacia Community Charter Middle School will have the following:

Will there be a before and after school program at Acacia Community Charter School?

There will be a before and after school care program available for an additional cost. The before and after school care program will be very similar to what is offered at the Livermore Valley Charter School. Cost of the before and after school care program will be discounted based on need.

How many students will there be at Acacia Community Charter School?

There will be approximately 350 students in Acacia Community Charter Elementary School and about 200 students in Acacia Community Charter Middle School when it is fully enrolled.

Will Acacia Community Charter School be a Title 1 School?

Acacia Community Charter School, like all other TVLC schools and district schools, will have Title 1 students. These students will receive the same support that they would receive at LVCS, LVCP, or at the district schools. We do not anticipate being a Title 1 school. A Title 1 school is one that demonstrates that the student membership has a sufficiently high percentage of economically disadvantaged students to receive additional funding under Title 1 of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, the largest federally funded educational program.

Who is in charge of Acacia Community Charter School?

Acacia Community Charter School is owned and operated by the Tri Valley Learning Corporation (TVLC), a public non-profit public benefit corporation under California law. TVLC is governed by its adopted bylaws and its Board of Directors. Board members have a responsibility to adopt a budget, school policies and procedures, school operation, compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and for the implementation of the charter, which was certified by the state. A majority of the TVLC Board Members must be elected by the TVLC membership while others may be appointed.

Acacia Community Charter School will have a School Council to act in an advisory capacity to the Principal and the TVLC board.

How do I enroll my child in Acacia Community Charter School?

Acacia Community Charter School is currently accepting enrollment forms for attendance during Open Enrollment periods. At the close of each period, all applicants are accepted unless the number of students exceeds the number of open spaces. When this occurs, a lottery takes place. Please go to <http://www.acaciacharter.org> or call the office to find out when the next Open Enrollment period will occur.

Where do I have to live for my child to attend Acacia Community Charter School?

Acacia Community Charter School does not have housing boundaries. Students can come from many different communities.

If I live in Stockton, will I have a better chance of getting in to Acacia Community Charter School?

Acacia Community Charter School will admit all students who wish to enroll in the school, subject only to capacity. If there are more applicants than capacity in any grade level, admission to Acacia Community Charter School (except for returning students to the School) will be determined by public random drawing. Preferences for enrollment in Acacia Community Charter School will then be as follows:

1. Students returning from the previous year shall be exempt from the public random drawing.
2. Siblings of currently enrolled students at a TVLC school shall be exempt from the public random drawing.
3. Children of the teachers of ACCS shall be exempt from the public random drawing, not to exceed ten-percent of the total enrollment.
4. Residents of other areas served by the SUSD shall receive a 2:1 weight factor in the public random drawing.
5. Other California residents.

If I have been in lottery for past years at LVCS, can my child get a preference for the lottery at Acacia Community Charter School?

Legally, this cannot be done. We open up enrollment equally to all students every year.

Will students from Acacia Community Charter School be automatically enrolled in any TVLC high school?

Can you tell me more about the Charter School Approval process for Acacia Community Charter School?

We are now in the process of resubmitting our petition to the New Jerusalem Elementary School District for approval.

How do you have enough money to start this school and hire before it opens?

Acacia Community Charter School will apply for a Planning and Implementation grant that provides funding during the planning year. This was the approach that we used for both LVCS and LVCP High School. In fact, as a first year school, initial funding for LVCS came solely from a Charter School Implementation grant and the money people gave personally. Additionally, Tri-Valley Learning Corporation is able to make a strategic financial investment in growth.

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