



# Oglethorpe Charter School - Founded 1999

MASCOT: TITAN UNIFORM: KHAKI PANTS, BURGUNDY POLO, MONOGRAMMED JACKET

## Program

### Highlights

- Core Knowledge Curriculum and Georgia Performance Standards
- Expanded Arts Program - Spanish, Skills for Adolescents, Band, Chorus, Drama, Technology, Art, Fitness
- Middle School Athletic Program - softball and volleyball for girls, football and wrestling, co-ed swimming, cheerleading, basketball, soccer, baseball and track and field
- Enrichment opportunities for all students—Odyssey of the Mind; Knowledgemaster Quiz Bowl; Reading Quiz Bowl; National Geographic Geography Bee; Spelling Bee; Media Festival; science fair for 8th graders; social science fair for 7th graders
- Community service and field trips are integral components of the overall program, as is character education. Students are recognized for homework completion and good behavior.

**Mission: Partnering with parents and community to inspire students to achieve personal and academic excellence.**

**We value: parental involvement, innovation, respect, determination, effort, positive character development, caring for others, and accountability.**

Oglethorpe Charter School is Georgia's first start-up charter school. It was founded by a 10-member steering committee of community-minded individuals who wanted to create a special learning environment that addressed the unique academic, social, emotional and physical needs of the young adolescent.

To address the need for learners who are proficient in math, reading and writing by high school, Oglethorpe has opted to offer every student a dedicated reading class focused on literature and vocabulary acquisition and a



and spelling. In addition, each student attends two math classes at each grade level, one focused on algebra concepts and number sense, and a second class dedicated to geometry and statistics.

Students at every grade level also take social studies and science, as well as a variety of related arts.

Teachers are provided professional development on the Marzano instructional strategies that have proven to be

dedicated language arts class focused on writing, grammar,

“best practices” for this age group—summarizing and note-taking; reinforcing effort and providing recognition; homework and practice; and cooperative learning.

Oglethorpe promotes “excellence” through a number of honor societies—chorus, band, National Junior Beta Club, National Junior Honor Society and the National Association of Student Councils. Every student participates in a selected club.

To encourage a feeling of belonging and school spirit, OCS holds beloved events like Fall Fling, Spirit Week, a spring Beta Dance and a year-book-signing party.

## A letter from a former student

Each year, we receive letters from former students, telling us how their experience at Oglethorpe prepared them for high school.

“Hard to believe it, but I’m now actually in high school! Starting high school was a little difficult, but I finally got the hang of it and I actually really

like it. I could never be so grateful for the learning experience that I was fortunate enough to have at Oglethorpe. I find it so humorous to hear my peers at school who didn’t attend OCS repeatedly say to my teachers, “How do y’all expect us to keep up with all this work?!” To be honest, the

work is not all that difficult to keep up with. I miss my former teachers dearly. Please tell all the staff at OCS that I said: THANK YOU SO MUCH! And that I miss them. Every student at OCS is very lucky to have the amazing teachers at OCS.”

Ella Joseph, Early College

## ADMISSION PROCESS

The three dates for Admission Sessions are Jan. 13th at 5 p.m.; Jan. 18th at 5 p.m. and Jan. 20th at 9 a.m.

Flyers were distributed in December to 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Savannah-Chatham County public elementary schools.

Advertisements are placed in the newspaper and on the web site.

Applications are given to only those who attend an Admission Session.

Admission is not based on academic criteria.

Admission is not based on a first-come, first-serve basis. All applicants who have properly completed an application by the deadline are included in the lottery.

Siblings of current Oglethorpe Charter students and current staff members receive preferential enrollment. **(Applications are distributed during the first week of Admission Sessions.)**

A public lottery is held if more applications are received than space available. The tentative lottery date is Feb. 17th at 8 a.m. in the cafeteria.

Acceptance/Waiting List Letter will be mailed on February 25, 2011. **Wait-Listed Students will be notified as spaces become available. No students are notified after the 10<sup>th</sup> day of school per Oglethorpe Charter policy.**

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade applicants are notified no later than mid- May.

