
Lansing Charter Academy

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Charter School Coming To Lansing

Lansing, Mich., March 4, 2009 – To meet the growing demand of parents in the Lansing-area, a new charter school will open its doors in September. The board of Lansing Charter Academy today announced its plans to open its doors to students in grades K-5 for the 2009-2010 school year.

Construction at Lansing Charter Academy's new facility, located on Express Road in Lansing, north of W. Holmes Road, is slated to begin in March, with targeted completion in early August. The 45,000-square-foot-energy efficient building will feature individual art and music classrooms, a comprehensive media center, gymnasium and designated parent area. The surrounding campus will feature a large outdoor recreation area, adjoining playground, a paved play area, spacious parking lot and attractive landscaping.

Lansing Charter Academy will initially have capacity for 480 K-5 students and will add one grade per year through the 8th grade, eventually serving more than 700 students.

"I speak for the entire board when I say we're eager to offer parents in the Lansing community another high-quality educational option," said James Brooks, board president. "Our goal with Lansing Charter Academy is to create a safe, secure learning environment that fosters student achievement, that parents can have confidence in and that the community can be proud of."

The board has selected educational services provider National Heritage Academies (NHA) to manage the daily operations of the school. This includes recruiting, managing and developing staff and teachers, providing curriculum and managing the facility. NHA currently partners with boards at 57 other schools in six states serving more than 36,000 students.

"We have been extremely impressed with the success the other NHA-managed school in our area, Windemere Park Charter Academy, has achieved over the past decade," said Brooks. "With the school's success has come strong demand in the community for another school of its caliber in the area. NHA's cornerstones of academic excellence, strong moral focus, commitment to parental partnership and individual student responsibility is attractive to parents, serves students well and aligns with our vision for the school. We're confident this will be a positive long-term partnership."

A former board member with NHA's Paramount Charter Academy in Kalamazoo, Mr. Brooks currently handles cash management sales at Lansing's National City Bank, where he has worked for the past 26 years. He also presently sits on the Ingham County Rebuilding

Together board. Joining Mr. Brooks on the Lansing Academy board is: Matthew Breslin, Penni Vandecar and Thomas Woods.

As a public, no-cost charter school, Lansing Charter Academy is open to all students. The school will be accepting applications during an open enrollment period through March 13. If application response exceeds the number of seats available at the school, a random selection public lottery will be held on April 16.

National Heritage Academies has scheduled informational meetings for parents interested in learning more about the new school. The meetings will be held at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., on March 12, at Friendship Baptist Church, located at 2912 Pleasant Grove Road in Lansing. Student enrollment applications for full-day kindergarten through fifth grade can be obtained by calling 866-NHA-ENROLL, in person at the parent meeting, or online at www.nhaschools.com.

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