Oak Hill Charter School
Parent Guide to Student Achievement

Based on requirements listed in Parents' Bill of Rights - SB 49; Session Law 2023-106 (115C-76.30)

This guide is designed to answer families' most frequently asked questions and to provide your family with some important resources. Please take some time to review this information. Classroom and grade-level procedures will be addressed by your child's teachers.

School Contact Information:
Oak Hill Charter School 4603 Oak Hill School Road Lenoir, NC 28645 info@oakhillcharternc.org 828-759-1383

Parent Information:	
What are the school entry requirements (including immunizations and recommended immunization schedule)?	Parents can go to our website for information on enrolling at OHCS and our lottery process.
What is the school's policy for immunizations and the recommended immunization schedule? What information does the school have on health and safety?	The following are statutory requirements for immunizations: - Immunization records: GS_130A-155.pdf (ncleg.gov) - Immunization requirements: GS_130A-152.pdf (ncleg.gov) Parents are welcome to reach out with questions or concerns about medical issues. The school's policy on health and safety can be found here.
What are the requirements for promotion to the next grade?	In order to be promoted to the next grade level, OHCS students are expected to meet or exceed proficiency on local assessments of state standards and state standardized tests. Grade placement decisions are based on students' mastery of reading, writing, and mathematics, as well as content knowledge. Additionally, administration will take into account

	social/emotional needs, as well as physical and psychological development, when considering promotion. Final placement decisions are made by the school principal, informed by input from teachers, parents, and the students themselves.
What is our course of study, what textbooks and instructional materials do we use, and how can parents review these materials?	In North Carolina, all public schools base their course of study on the Standard Course of Study determined by the State Board of Education. These standards include the minimum knowledge and skills students are expected to understand at the end of each grade/course. OHCS, as a public charter school, has the freedom to determine how to teach these standards, including curriculum, textbooks, and supplementary materials. Each teacher takes these standards and brings them to life in their classroom. To do this consistently, OHCS uses Core Knowledge curriculum (reading, writing, history, literature, geography), Saxon Math, and Shurley Grammar, across grades K-8. More information about these programs is available on our website. Parents of OHCS students are always welcome to discuss the curriculum with teachers and administration. We encourage parents to attend our beginning of year orientation open house (fall), our parent nights each semester, and our new family open house (spring), to learn more about the curriculum and ask any questions.
What are student assessments and progress reports like at OHCS?	OHCS shares student progress with parents in a variety of way: report cards go home at the end of each quarter, individual teachers share progress reports for students regularly, and grades are available on NCSIS (Infinite Campus) for parents to review when they log in. Parent conferences can be scheduled at the behest of the parent or the teacher, and parents are kept updated about concerns and progress via phone calls and email from administration and teachers. OHCS implements NWEA MAP testing three times a year to measure reading and math achievement and progress. Reporting from this testing is used internally and individual student reports are shared with parents. OHCS implements state required end-of-grade (EOG) testing (and other state assessments like the English language proficiency assessment or end-of-course tests for Math 1); student reports are provided to parents at the end of each school year. EOG testing is done for grades 3-8, in reading and math. Grades 5 and 8 also take a science EOG.
What are the qualifications of teachers at OHCS?	As required by state law, at least 50% of OHCS teachers will be licensed. Core teachers who are not licensed will at least have a bachelor's degree. Parents may look up their student's teachers' licensure status at this state website.

How can I help my student progress academically?	Parents are the first and most important teachers of their children. To support the learning that students do at OHCS, we encourage parents to engage their children in a few regular and basic ways: ● Ask questions about your child's school day: what did they learn? what was their favorite part of class? what topic or assignment are they most excited about and why? ● Connect with your child's teachers: feel free to message your child's teacher or set up a meeting to ask about your child's progress and how you can help them at home. Ask what books your child will be reading, so you can read on your own and discuss with your student. ● Set aside a time in your child's daily schedule for homework, and assist them as needed. ● Attend school events like open houses and parent nights so you can see your child's work and discuss the class with their teacher. We recommend parents review the curriculum we use and the NC Standard Course of Study.
How can I help my student develop citizenship, social skills, and respect for others?	Oak Hill Charter School is dedicated to growing students' intellectual abilities, but we also know that the intellect is nothing if it doesn't develop alongside a strong and virtuous character. Character is formed through the daily decisions we make and the habits those decisions create over time. Those decisions are related to the Core Essentials character curriculum we use at OHCS. Each day we remind our students of our three character actions to keep in mind as they go about their day: "Treat others right. Make smart decisions. Maximize potential." Our school counselor leads regular sessions to discuss the virtue of the month with each grade level. To help support this curriculum, parents can discuss with their child what it means to treat others right, make smart decisions, and maximize potential. Parents can review the Core Essentials character program here Parents should review the Parent / Student Handbook and discuss school discipline with their child. If a child receives school discipline, we ask for the parents' help in addressing the behavior at home and helping the child to understand actions have consequences.

How can I help my student meet high expectations and set lifelong goals?	Our educational focus is “back to basics.” That means we approach education by asking a fundamental question: who are our students, apart from grades and standardized tests and course requirements? The back to basics answer is that they are young humans. To be successful at educating them, we have to understand what it means to be human and how humans develop. We have to start with the fact that the thing that makes humans unique is our ability to know and to reason and use language. Therefore, a back to basics education means cultivating in our students their skills as knowers, reasoners, and users of language. How do humans become skillful at anything? We practice! That’s why our back to basics education also means rigor: we believe in asking our students and their families to work hard. Just like athletes put in time at the gym and sweat it out at practice, students have the opportunity to work out their minds and characters at Oak Hill. It takes time and effort to get strong through exercise; in the same way, it takes consistent effort over time for students to get good at knowing, reasoning, and speaking and writing. The process is difficult, but the result is students who are becoming more capable and complete humans because they are practicing uniquely human skills. With all this in mind, parents of OHCS students can help their students meet high expectations by supporting the standards of the school and addressing with their child the importance of completing their school work on time and with excellence. Parents should communicate with teachers so they understand the kind of work that is being done and what is being asked of their student; then, parents can reinforce class standards at home and help students understand the reasoning behind being asked to do difficult things.
How can a parent strengthen communication with the school and their child’s teachers?	OHCS uses Infinite Campus to send messages to parents when needed. Parents can view students’ assignments and grades in the Infinite Campus parent portal. OHCS also uses the ClassDojo app as an efficient way of keeping parents in the loop about class-level and school-level information. NCDPI has provided these guides via the NC Rethink Education Program to assist parents: Building Strong Relationships with Your Child’s Teacher How You Can Use Questions to Support Your Child’s Learning
What services are available for parents and their children?	OHCS offers after school care; additional services like tutoring are available, when coordinated with a student’s teacher.
What are opportunities for parents to participate with school?	We encourage parents to attend parent nights and other school events (like athletic games, field trips, and curriculum nights). Parents can reach out to the office about volunteer opportunities. Additionally, parents can participate in the School Improvement Team and School Advisory Group.

How can a parent learn more about the challenging academic programs available to my child?	We recommend parents review the curriculum we use and ask their student's teacher for recommendations for supplementary resources to challenge their child independently.
What school choices are available for my child?	**Charter Schools** Charter schools are public schools of choice that are authorized by the State Board of Education and operated by independent non-profit boards of directors. State and local tax dollars are the primary funding sources for charter schools, which have open enrollment and cannot discriminate in admissions, associate with any religion or religious group, or charge-tuition. Charter schools operate with freedom from many of the regulations that govern district schools, but charter schools are held accountable through the State assessment and accountability system. **Local District Schools** Students in public school districts are assigned to certain schools based on a local assignment plan approved by the Local Board of Education. **Nonpublic Education and Scholarship Grants** Nonpublic education is overseen by the NC Department of Administration. A list of private schools can be found here: NC Private Schools. Information on how to start a homeschool can be found here: Homeschool Information. Scholarship grant programs/voucher information is available via the NC State Education Assistance Authority.
What rights do students with disabilities have based on the law?	For students suspected of or identified with a disability by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the following links provide important information regarding the procedural safeguards available to ensure a free, appropriate, public education. Parent Rights Handbook Parent Rights Handbook (Spanish) IDEA Dispute Resolution Special Education Surrogate Parents Project Child Find