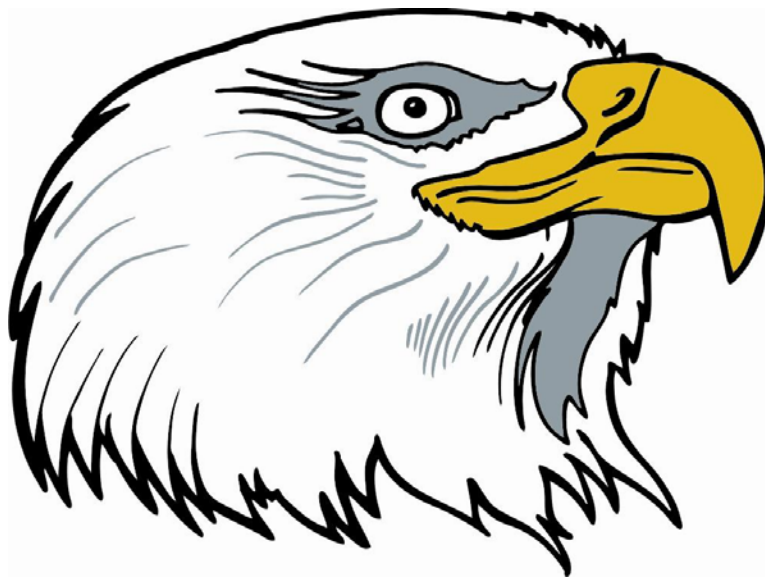


***Valrico Academy at Celebration  
Grades K-5***

***Frequently Asked Questions***



***Charter School Associates, Inc.  
2009-2010***

# **Valrico Academy at Celebration**

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### **1. What type of school is Valrico Academy at Celebration?**

Valrico Academy at Celebration is a tuition-free public school operated by an organization other than the local school board. Although the charter school has an agreement with the local school board, it is operated independently with a curriculum and educational philosophy that is different from other schools in the system. The charter school is held to very high standards, both academically and financially but because of their autonomy, charter schools are free to develop programs that meet the specific needs of their students. Parents choose the charter school and as a result, parents are anxious to participate and become part of the child's educational process.

### **2. Who can attend Valrico Academy at Celebration?**

Valrico Academy at Celebration accepts any eligible student in grades Kindergarten through five, residing in Hillsborough County upon the submission of a timely application, unless the number of applications exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level or building. In such cases, all applicants will have an equal chance of being selected to attend the school through a random selection process (lottery). Enrollment preference is given to siblings, military personnel and the children of Valrico Academy at Celebration employees, provided there is space available. Valrico Academy at Celebration does not discriminate or limit enrollment based on race, religion, or disability.

### **3. Where is Valrico Academy at Celebration located?**

Valrico Academy at Celebration is located at: 1653 Bloomingdale Avenue Valrico, Florida 33596.

### **4. What are some of the unique features of Valrico Academy at Celebration?**

Valrico Academy at Celebration is a community-based school offering students an opportunity to become active participants in their education. Students are given every opportunity for success with qualified, caring teachers carrying out the daily instruction, tutorials provided in an after school setting and an attentive administrative team who will work to ensure a safe, secure learning environment. Parents are asked to volunteer their time to share in that process and to provide the school with additional creative resources.

### **5. What curriculum is used at Valrico Academy at Celebration?**

Coursework, curriculum and all textbooks are aligned with the Sunshine State Standards and district requirements. In addition, the student-centered curriculum is enhanced with tutorials, hands-on classroom activities, life relevant experiences and educationally beneficial homework assignments. Enrichment opportunities are available to all students.

Qualified students may participate in the advanced and gifted programs. Assistance is provided for those students who need additional differentiated instruction and strategies to help insure academic success.

**6. What extra-curricular activities are available?**

Students are encouraged to participate in after school FCAT prep workshops, clubs, sports and our supervised after school day care program. In the after school program students will have the opportunity to complete homework, attend help sessions, participate in game activities and relax while waiting to leave for the day.

**7. Who is served by Valrico Academy at Celebration?**

Valrico Academy at Celebration serves eligible students in grades Kindergarten through five who reside in Hillsborough County. Subsequent grade levels will be added each school year.

**8. How is Valrico Academy at Celebration operated?**

A governing board has been established to review and recommend policies, academic goals and strategies for school success.

A school advisory committee is established to provide an avenue for communication and to provide ideas that support the overall mission of the school to the administrative team. These recommendations will be taken under advisement and a decision to take action will be at the sole discretion of the administrative team.

The Administrative Team is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the school.

The Parent/Teacher/Student organization provides support for the mission of the school through fund-raising activities.

Charter School Associates provides professional management and operational support.

**9. How is the charter school funded?**

All Charter Schools are funded by the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP).

**Students do not pay tuition.**

**10. Does Valrico Academy at Celebration serve students in the Exceptional Education Program (ESE)?**

Students with varying exceptionalities are served, when appropriate, according to their IEP.

Valrico Academy at Celebration provides a program for ESE students, supporting the students with a team approach to their education.

**11. What requirements must teachers meet to work at Valrico Academy at Celebration?**

The teachers at Valrico Academy at Celebration must be certified or eligible for certification as defined in Florida Statute. All school employees must submit to the same criminal and background investigations as required in traditional public schools.

**12. Is Bus transportation available for students?**

We encourage students to car pool with neighbors and friends. The school will facilitate the carpool process at the start of school.

**13. Is there additional help for students who need assistance in specific areas?**

After school help sessions, tutorials and FCAT preparation are provided after school by classroom teachers. Students are encouraged to take advantage of this additional help to insure their success in core subject areas.

**14. How will students be prepared for the FCAT?**

Teachers will not “teach the test”. We feel that students who are exposed to FCAT benchmarks as a part of their everyday curriculum will ultimately perform better on the test, because the test becomes second nature to them. Students will participate in a multitude of activities designed for creativity, interest and positive performance in the classroom and on the FCAT.

**15. Are parents required to volunteer?**

Student success in school is closely related to parental involvement in the educational process. Students enjoy seeing their parents as involved members of the school community. Parents are asked to contribute ten (10) hours of volunteer time per year. A variety of volunteer opportunities are provided through out the school year.

**16. Are students required to wear uniforms and where may I purchase the uniform?**

Students are required to wear a uniform to school. We believe that when students are dressed appropriately for school, the atmosphere of the school becomes one of respect and academic excellence allowing students to enjoy recognition for their successes in the classroom. There is also a dress code for faculty and staff.

Shirts must have the school logo and must be purchased through the school. Prices are very competitive. Shirt colors are navy, yellow and baby blue. Students may wear khaki shorts, skorts, slacks or jumpers and these items may be purchased at the local department stores. Tennis shoes are preferred.

***If you have additional questions, please contact us at***

***[www.valricoacademy.com](http://www.valricoacademy.com)***

***[info@valricoacademy.com](mailto:info@valricoacademy.com)***

***[hr@valricoacademy.com](mailto:hr@valricoacademy.com)***

***Phone: 813 699-5049***

***Fax: 813-413-5191***

