

ABOUT IMAGINE SCHOOLS....

BACKGROUND: Imagine Schools:

- is a national family of public charter schools that empowers educators in partnership with parents to prepare students for lives of leadership, accomplishment, and character.
- operate 71 schools in 11 states and the District of Columbia.
- has over 37,000 students receiving an education in Imagine schools, similar to the size of the Minneapolis or Buffalo school districts.
- as charter schools, offer parents a choice in the education of their children by working in communities to increase opportunities for learning and access to quality education for all students including those within the public school system, by providing accountability for results, encouraging innovative public-private partnerships, and greater parental and community involvement.
- offer a variety of curricula and approaches – freedom within a framework of strong programs and accountability. As charter schools, we have flexibility to find solutions to problems and continually improve.
- use five Measures of Excellence to evaluate the effectiveness of each school. The measures are parent choice, shared values, academic achievement, character development, and economic sustainability. Each school's achievement on these measures is publicly reported annually. All Imagine Schools are held accountable for the following Measures of Excellence:
 - work is guided by three shared values: integrity, justice, and fun.
 - operate in a decentralized fashion based on the organizational philosophy described in Dennis Bakke's business best seller, *Joy at Work*. Imagine has 80 regional and national staff supporting the schools – of those only 22 people are in the Arlington headquarters office.
 - is gaining attention because we are a fast-growing organization that is bringing friendly competition to traditional public schools. We believe that friendly competition will lead to more innovation and better performance in all schools, which will benefit students and their parents.

IMAGINE CHARTER SCHOOLS IN MARYLAND:

Prince George's County

1. - **Imagine Foundations PCS**- Principal, Mr. William Hill
4605 Brown Station Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
4th year of operation- Currently serving 337 students in K-6 (adding a grade a year through grade 8) 97% African American students.

The School is committed to:

Content Rich Curriculum - Through the adoption of the Core Knowledge sequence, we provide students with an integrated educational approach that places a heavy emphasis on classic literature, mathematics, geography, art, physical education, and music.

Culture That Shapes Character - We consciously and rigorously work to develop the character of every IFPCS student by dedicating the first twenty minutes of each school day to the teaching of positive character traits. We reinforce these teachings by incorporating character-forming rituals throughout the school day. Students also benefit from having monthly prominent character education speakers and award ceremonies.

Meaningful Community - We teach students the importance of community by working collaboratively with our parents, guardians and local community stakeholders in pursuit of our mission.

Recognitions:

#1 Performing charter school in Prince George's County Maryland.

- A Prince George's County Exemplary School Award winner 2008, 2009 and qualified for the award for the 2010 SY.
- Imagine Foundations Public Charter School performs 7.5% above the Maryland state average in math and 19.2% above the Prince George's County Public Schools average.
- Imagine Foundations Public Charter School performs 3.1% above the Maryland State average in reading and 12.5% above the Prince George's County Public Schools average.
- Imagine Foundations Public Charter School performs 15.9% above the Maryland state average in science and 43.2% above the Prince George's County Public Schools average.

2. - **Imagine Lincoln PCS**, Principal, Ms. Kimberly Strayhorn
3120 Branch Avenue, Marlow Heights, MD

4th year of operations- currently serving 395 students in K-7th grade (adding a grade a year through 8th) 384 are African American, 2 are Hispanic, 3 are Islander/Pacific, and 6 are Multi-racial.

Forty-four percent of the students qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch. The school population is made up of students from the following communities: Suitland, District Heights, Capital Heights, Brandywine, Marlow Heights, Clinton, Largo, and Oxon Hill.

Program Highlights:

- Core Knowledge is used as the basic curriculum. It is augmented with supplemental resources in order to ensure alignment with Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum.
- Weekly collaborative planning sessions take place to ensure program implementation, and the pacing, and alignment of the Core Knowledge Curriculum with Maryland's Voluntary State Curriculum.
- Ongoing afterschool MSA enrichment programs provide extended learning opportunities for students who scored basic or below on the Maryland School Assessment in reading and math.
- Lincoln has adopted Lexia Reading and Symphony Math as web based programs to provide remediation and differentiation of instruction. The staff has participated in ongoing staff development in order to use these programs. Incorporated in this program are the principles from the Institutes for Learning from the University of Pittsburg, a program being used by PGCPs which includes Learning Walks and Accountable Talk, Clear Expectations, Socializing Intelligence and Academic Rigor.

The school is mission driven and requires parent participation at all levels. The more parents are involved in the process, the better the performance by the students. . Imagine Lincoln Public Charter School Agreement requires parents are to complete a minimum of two hours of volunteer service to the school. To this goal, we endeavor to provide an open, warm, and welcoming environment

Baltimore County

Imagine Discovery PCS- Principal, Ms. Sharon Harris

1726 Whitehead Road, Woodlawn, MD 21207

3rd Year of operations- currently serving 612 students in K-6 grade (adding a grade a year through grade 8).

Imagine Discovery Public Charter School is the first public charter school to open in Baltimore County, Maryland.

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The Educational Program

Imagine Discovery is dedicated to meeting the educational needs and aspirations of every student, using the following educational principles:

- **Core Knowledge** – a shared core curriculum which assists children in establishing strong foundations of knowledge grade-by-grade.
- **An arts integration program** with exposure and collaboration of the arts within the curriculum.
- **A reading program** that emphasizes phonics in the primary grades as well as development of rich vocabulary, comprehension and fluency using a variety of literature.
- **Emphasis on the basic skills** of reading fluency, writing, grammar, spelling, oral communication, computation, and problem solving.
- **Character education** that is integrated into all classes and subject areas.
- **Math, science and history** curricula that emphasize sequential learning, mastery of critical skills, and project-based activities that accesses various learning styles.
- **Virtual Spanish** classes for grades K-5.
- **Covenants with students** and parents/guardians outlining the expectations of participation by the student, parent/guardian, and the school.
- **Frequent and consistent assessment** of student progress; the results used to evaluate individual student strengths and weaknesses as well as to improve instruction.
- **Intervention** and intensive help for any student who is struggling to learn, or not achieving the grade level expectations in a particular subject area.
- **Challenging materials** to enhance the curriculum for students who surpass grade level expectations.