

Camden Academy Charter High School is a public, non-denominational, co-educational, independent day school of choice for 400 students in grade 9 through 12. Established in 2001, the school strives to promote each student's unique educational interests and provide a platform for community service and lifelong learning.

Since its inception, Camden Academy has developed into a community of highly motivated learners and complex thinkers. The school draws its students from application throughout all areas of Camden City and surrounding communities. If applications for a specific grade exceed 125, the school holds a lottery to select students at random.

Because students choose to attend Camden Academy, they are challenged with high expectations and a rigorous academic experience. Camden Academy delivers its curriculum in a collegiate style, consisting of two distinct academies within the school: the Academy of Business and the Academy of Science. Rigorous graduation requirements guide students through the completion of a major study within one school. Student take eight courses throughout the academy year and minimally complete a total of 120 credit hours overall for graduation.

All students must complete four years of English, three years of Mathematics, three years of Science, three years of History, two years of World Language, two years of Fine or Performing Arts, one year of economics, and four years of Physical Education. All students must also conduct a senior research project, publish their works in a school research journal and present their work at an end-of-the-year research colloquium.

In addition to required courses, Camden Academy offers varied electives to help students explore future career options and develop into well-rounded individuals. Elective classes include Business Law, Newspaper, Economics, Keyboarding, Engineering, Broadcasting and Intro to Health Care Professions. Additionally, students may participate in Advance Placement courses in Foreign Language, History, Language Arts, Mathematics and Science. Camden Academy also offers extracurricular activities and programs, providing students with the opportunity to explore unique interests and develop their talents. Activities include basketball, volleyball, baseball, softball, cheerleading, computer classes, movie making and band.

Out of Camden Academy's 185-day school year, students devote 5 days each year to an extended learning experience known as an Academy minor. These minors provide additional opportunities for students to work in teams, participate in problem solving, carry out extended projects and implement self-assessment strategies to foster unique learning experiences beyond the boundaries of the classroom. Camden Academy requires its first-and second-year students to attend a three-day camping experience where they participate in team-building exercises and conduct science experiments. Third-and fourth-year students participate in job shadowing and internship experience, which include partnerships with area companies and agencies.

Camden Academy offers students the chance to further challenge themselves through the Honors Program. After being recommended for the program, student may take any course at the Honors level. Approximately 20 percent of Camden Academy's students have embraced the challenging Honors Program curriculum. In addition, Camden Academy students have experienced extraordinary academic achievements with approximately 75 percent of the students taking rigorous college preparatory classes and earning standardized test scores three times higher in language arts and two times higher in mathematics than students in the local district. Also, nearly every graduate has gone on to further his or her academic career, with acceptances into colleges like American University, The College of New Jersey, Rutgers University, Rowan University, St. Joseph's University, Seton Hall University, and Villanova.

At Camden Academy, the student to faculty ratio is 11:1, and the average class size is 20. Approximately more than 60 percent of the school's faculty members hold masters and doctoral degrees. The faculty works closely with students, families, higher education personnel and members of the community to create a dynamic learning environment for Camden Academy students, where all are encouraged to participate in the school and challenged to take ownership of the overall educational process.

From these diverse extracurricular activities to challenging academic criteria, Camden Academy equips students with the tools they need to reach their goals and dreams. Camden Academy truly lives up to its motto: "The Passport to Future".

CAMDEN ACADEMY FAST FACTS

GRADES: 9 to 12

NUMBER OF STUDENT: 400

**STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO:
11:1**

**AVERAGE CLASS SIZE:
20 Students**

PROMISE *Helping Every Child Succeed*



Camden's Promise Charter School is a public non-denominational, co-educational, independent day school of choice for 380 students in grades 5th through 8. Established in 1998, the school strives to provide the youth of Camden City with a safe and successful education. Camden's Promise strives to fulfill this mission by following a curriculum that combines rigorous academics with a holistic approach to education.

At Camden's Promise, the student to faculty ratio is 10:1 and the average class size is 20. Camden's Promise draws its students from applicants throughout all areas of Camden City. If an application for specific grade exceeds 100, the school holds a lottery to select students at random.

Because students choose to attend Camden's Promise, they are met with high expectations and a rigorous academic experience, carefully designed to give students a well-rounded education. Morning sessions at Camden's Promise focus on developing and expanding basic academic skills necessary for success in the real world. Portions of these sessions are devoted to the development of character through the exploration of community responsibility, leadership skills and conflict resolution tactic-tools necessary for becoming contributing members of a democratic society and tomorrow's great leaders.

Afternoon sessions at Camden's Promise focus on the academic themes of science, math and technology. Relevant hands-on programs, integrating the development of mathematics, technology and literacy skills, are used in the school and in the community to create an authentic educational environment for the student. Every classroom has several computers in addition to designed computer labs for each grade to further help students explore these disciplines.

When the school day comes to a close, Camden's Promise offers its students the chance to explore their interests and develop specific skills with a variety of extracurricular activities. Life skills, band, choir, the school newsletter club, athletics, Boy Scout, Girl Scout troops are among the activities.

Camden's Promise holds many of its extra curricular activities in its brand new Promise Academy Center, which its share with Camden Academy Charter High School. Opened in March 2005, the PAC gives students involved in the arts a venue for performances and student athletes an area to practice and host games. The facility includes full-size gymnasium/multipurpose room with a stage and a full sound systems; weight and exercise room; library holding 10,000 volumes, technology center, conference room, and administrative offices.

An additional \$500,000 from a federal 21st Century Community Learning Center grant has enabled the center to open up further to the community. With this funding, the Promise Academy Center provides computer classes and Spanish-to-English classes in addition to GED classes for the parents of the school's students.

Camden's Promise acknowledges that both family and community involvement are integral to a student's academic achievement, and therefore focuses on fostering strong partnerships among the school, family and community. The school boasts a strong parent involvement in every facet of school operation. Parents sit on the Board of Directors and participate in the Parent Council.

From parents to faculty to community members, Camden's Promise ensures that each student has a strong network of support for his or her academic journey. This support coupled with the school's rigorous curriculum helps every Camden's Promise student reach his or her imminent and future goals. Therefore, Camden's Promise truly lives up to its motto: "Helping Every Child Succeed".

CAMDEN'S PROMISE FAST FACTS

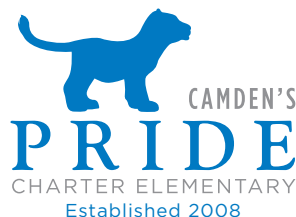
GRADES: 5 to 8

NUMBER OF STUDENT: 380

**STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO:
10:1**

**AVERAGE CLASS SIZE:
20 Students**

PRIDE *I am a Leader of the Pride & I roar so loud... Respectful, Responsible, Resourceful, & Proud!*



Camden's Pride Charter School is a public, non-denominational, co-educational, independent day school of choice for elementary school students. Camden's Pride Charter School was established in 2008 with Kindergarten and 1st grade and the school had a total of 84 students. Each year, an additional grade is added. During the 2011-2012 school year, Camden's Pride Charter school will be complete and have 210 students in grades Kindergarten through Fourth Grade.

The purpose of Camden's Pride Charter School is to provide a nurturing educational environment that instills within its students foundation skills and character attributes necessary for the development of educated, forward looking, and responsible young adults. Camden's Pride strives to achieve its mission through a program of academics, experiences, and character development.

Camden's Pride is a learning community in which all stakeholders are engaged in a dynamic process of learning to strengthen the teaching in the classroom and student achievement. At Camden's Pride, the teacher to faculty ratio is 10:1 and the average class size is 14. By having only three classes within each grade, Camden's Pride maintains a small and personal school environment. Camden's Pride draws its students from applicants throughout all areas of Camden City. If applications for a specific grade exceed 42, the school holds a lottery to select students at random.

The Camden's Pride curriculum is anchored by the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and is delivered in a small-school, theme-based environment. The school uses technology to its greatest capacity to deliver a dynamic program that meets the needs of continual incoming classes. A special focus is placed on enhancing the students' skills in literacy, mathematics, and technology.

Hands-on cooperative exploratory activities are a major facet of the curriculum. These interdisciplinary sessions create relevant authentic experiences. These activities occur both in the classroom as well as hands-on field trips and give the students an opportunity to learn through play, experimentation and creation in a multi-age setting.

Camden's Pride is a safe, caring environment that is non-biased and open to all learners. The school provides programs and projects to develop critical thinking, team-building, and ethical problem solving skills. Through this learning process, students establish intellectual habits and build character traits that will stimulate student enthusiasm and interest in their world and society.

Parent and community involvement are instrumental to a student's academic achievement and social development. As a result, Camden's Pride develops strong relationships between the parents, the school, and the community. Parents participate in every facet of the school operation including conferences, events, field trips, school activities, and as members of the Camden's Pride Board of Trustees. The network of the support from the school, the parents, and the community creates Camden's Pride leaders who are "Respectful, Responsible, Resourceful and Proud!"

CAMDEN'S PRIDE FAST FACTS

GRADES: *K to 4*

NUMBER OF STUDENT: *210*

STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO:
11:1

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE:
14 Students

ABOUT CCSN *Our Community*



Camden City is the largest municipality in Camden County. At the turn of the twentieth century, Camden, New Jersey was a flourishing port on the East Coast. However, with the combination of the departure of nearly all major industry and massive suburban flight, the city has struggled and has continued a downward slide towards its current state. Today, Camden has a population of 85,000 residents. Of these, 90% live in poverty, placing Camden as one of the poorest cities in the nation. Ninety percent of our students are on a free or reduced lunch program and 70% come from single parent households. Additionally, the City of Camden has been ranked among the most dangerous cities in the United States three years in a row.

Despite the normal struggles of an inner-city environment, students in Camden's Charter School Network have flourished. We are a community of learners and our students have had to overcome many obstacles to reach high levels of academic success. Our students choose to attend our network of schools and are challenged with a rigorous academic experience that prepares them for achievement and assists in helping them gain admissions to the post-secondary institution of their choice.

Our aims are to set high academic standards, stimulate ambition to learn, and maintain a positive educational environment. Our high school, Camden Academy, has demonstrated strong academic achievement with averaged state standardized test scores which are three times higher in language arts and two times higher in mathematics than the local district. Additionally, our students have embraced the school's challenging mission with 70% taking our rigorous college preparatory curriculum and 30% enrolling in our most challenging curriculum, The Honors Program. We set high expectations knowing our students can and will achieve.

Camden's Charter School Network has been recognized with recent accolades such as:

- 2010 US News Bronze Medal for America's Best High Schools
- 2010 Science Fair (Tri-County Fair) - 1st place (Jeremy Lopez) and 1st place (Ananis Lopez)
- 2010 Delaware Valley Science Fair (Statewide)- 2nd place (Jeremy Lopez) and 2nd Place (Ananis Lopez)
- 2010 Best in County for Unison Dance Ensemble
- 2010 City of Camden- President's Diversity Award (Dr. Conway recipient)

FOUNDERS *Meet our Founders*



Dr. Joseph Conway

Dr. Joseph Conway is currently the co-founder of Camden's Promise Charter School, Camden Academy Charter High School and Camden's Pride Elementary. These three schools were founded to provide an educational opportunity for Camden's youth in a city where violence and educational dropout are routine daily occurrences. In 1998 Camden's Promise first opened its doors for the children of Camden for the middle school level child. Since that time Camden Academy has graduated five classes of seniors with a 90% college admissions rate. These graduates of Camden Academy have successfully gone on to colleges and universities throughout the country. The newest school Camden's Pride elementary opened its doors in 2008.

Dr. Conway received his doctorate from Teachers College, Columbia University in 2004. Additionally he has an M.A. in Secondary Science Education from City College in New York, as well as a dual degree in Biology and in Theology from St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia. Dr. Conway was introduced to the urban environment through Teach for America when he spent five years teaching science in the South Bronx from 1992-1997. Since that time he has dedicated his life to the education of urban youths in America.

Additionally Dr. Conway teaches at Holy Family University, as a graduate professor, mentors other charter school principals and administrators, and serves on non profit boards.



Bill Helmbrecht

Bill Helmbrecht is an alumnus of Rutgers University having received his Bachelors Degree in Geological Sciences, Masters of Education and Masters of Library Service from the University. Bill has spent the past 15 years in the education profession beginning as a librarian for Rutgers University. He has spent the past 12 years in Camden City developing the schools of the Camden's Charter School Network. These schools have been cited by Congressman Robert Andrews in the Congressional Record for their excellent record as models for educational reform and most recently the high school has been recognized as being in the nation's top 10% of schools by US News and World Report.

Additionally Mr. Helmbrecht has served as a consultant to many charter school founder groups as well as on many local non-profit boards.

ACCEPTANCES *College & University*



Alabama State University
Albright College*
Allegany College of Maryland*
Alvernia College
American University
Arcadia University
Art Institute of Philadelphia
Bates College
Benedict College*
Bloomfield College*
Bowdoin College
Bowie State University
Bryn Mawr College*
Cabrini College*
Caldwell College*
Camden County College*
Chestnut Hill College*
Cheyney University*
Clark University
College of Notre Dame
College of St. Elizabeth*
College of the Holy Cross
Coppin State University
Delaware State University
DeSales University*
DeVry University
Dickinson College
Drew University*
Drexel University*
East Stroudsburg University
Eastern University*
Elizabeth City College
Elizabethtown College
Esperanza College
Fairleigh Dickinson University*

Franklin & Marshall College
Georgian Court University*
Gettysburg College
Goucher College*
Gwynedd Mercy College*
Hampton University
Howard University
Iona University
Juniata College
Kean University*
Knox College
Lafayette University
LaSalle University
Liberty University
Lincoln University
Livingstone College*
Loyola University of Maryland
Loyola University New Orleans*
Mary Baldwin College
Mercer County College
Millsaps College*
Monmouth University*
Montclair State University*
Moravian College*
Morehouse College
Morgan State College
Morris College
Mount Holyoke College
Neumann University*
New Jersey City University*
New York University
NJ Institute of Technology
Philadelphia University
Pomona College
Providence College

Quinnipiac University
Ramapo College*
Richard Stockton College *
Rider University*
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rosemont College
Rowan University*
Rutgers University*
Salisbury State University*
Seton Hall University*
Sienna College
Spartan College of Aeronautics
and Technology
Spelman College
St. John's University*
St. Joseph's University*
St. Peter's College*
Temple University
The College of New Jersey*
University of Chicago
University of Delaware
University of MD -Eastern Shore
University of Rochester*
University of the Sciences, Philadelphia*
Ursinus College*
Villanova University*
Virginia State University*
West Chester University*
Widener University*
Wilberforce University
William Paterson University*
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Xavier University

* Denotes college acceptances for the Class of 2010