



EAA Parents Meeting

August 4, 2014

5:05 PM

Parent Attendance: More than 500 people attended the meeting

A Parent Meeting was held by the Governing Board of Eagle Arts Academy to introduce the new principal of the school and to allow for questions to be asked and addressed in a positive forum.

On the panel: Dr. Nate Nichols – Governing Board Chairman, C. Ron Allen – Governing Board Vice Chair and Parent Liaison, Gregory James Blount – Founder, Melissa March – iSchools Management Company, Ms. Nikki Sloan – Principal, Jeannette La Fleur – Assistant Principal

Eagle Arts would like to welcome parents to this meeting in an effort to answer questions and alleviate any concerns. Eagle Arts Academy is the only school in the world of its kind. Your children will learn through the infusion of arts and technology into the core curriculum.

C. Ron Allen is your Parent Liaison from the Governing Board. If you feel you are unable to have your questions and/or concerns addressed at the school level, C. Ron Allen is your contact. His information is on the website.

The Governing Board is thankful for the amazing staff of Eagle Arts Academy and the Management Company for their tireless efforts in making this vision a reality.

The former principal of Eagle Arts Academy, Dr. Liz Knowles, has chosen to resign from the position of Head of School. The Governing Board acknowledges her wonderful work, but her work was moving in a different direction than the vision of the school so it is time to move forward with a new leader.

Ms. Nikki Sloan has been named the new principal of Eagle Arts Academy. Ms. Sloan recognizes that the Eagle Arts Vision is large and that it is greatly needed in the educational world. Schools have traditionally used extracurricular activities to keep students engaged. It's time to marry the arts and academics and expose children to arts on a daily basis. Ms. Sloan brings 20 years of educational experience to Eagle Arts as well as a strong background in performing arts. Her educational experience includes Guidance, Teaching, Instructional Coaching, and Administration.

Ms. Sloan is surrounded by an incredible team, including Ms. Jeannette La Fleur Assistant Principal. Ms. La Fleur has opened 3 charter schools in such capacities as Teacher, Curriculum Specialist and Administration. A recent addition to the Eagle Arts team is Ellen Jacoby, a professional casting director. She has a degree in education and has agreed to join the Eagle Arts staff in our acting/drama department.



Q & A

(Following is a list of questions asked directly by parents of the panel)

When will IEP meetings start?

If parents have access to their child's IEP, please submit it to the school. Information is being gathered now so that meetings can be scheduled.

What is the role of the founder?

Gregory James Blount is the President and CEO of Artademics LLC. He reports to the Governing Board. His presence is to make sure that the arts are infused into all subjects in every classroom.

Is the school working to get to the level of G-Star and Dreyfus?

Eagle Arts Academy is looking to have a future relationship with G-Star.

What is an IEP? EP?

An IEP is an Individualized Education Plan for students who have been identified as having special needs and an EP is an Education Plan for gifted students.

Is the school following Common Core State Standards?

Yes, Eagle Arts Academy is following the state mandated Florida State Standards. Teachers are trained in the new standards and will continue to have Professional Development throughout the year.

What is the average class size?

K-3 is 18 students to 1 teacher and 4-6 has 22 students to 1 teacher.

Will there be extracurricular activities?

Yes, there will be Basketball, Soccer, Karate, and cheerleading in the future.

What is the school's Anti-Bullying policy?

The school holds a Zero Tolerance policy. Discipline will be deterred through an engaging curriculum. It is important to motivate students in an engaging and dynamic way. Walt Disney believes that by instilling the arts into education you can inspire a child's imagination and creativity.

What does Zero Tolerance mean?

Once reported it will be documented, confirmed and then dealt with through consequences.



Will the school offer STEM activities?

STEM will be reflected in our Science and Social Studies. It will be embedded in the program through the use of technology. Eagle Arts is ahead by infusing arts into the science and technology curriculum.

How many teachers are Gifted Certified?

Eagle Arts' goal is to have all teachers gifted certified. There are plans to have onsite trainings for teachers to complete the 5 required classes to achieve their gifted certification. This will take about a year.

If, as a parent, I do not have a copy of my child's EP, can she still be placed in gifted classes?

We are not looking to categorize students. The ESE accommodations are offered through a push-in model. If changes to a child's schedule need to be made to accommodate the needs then that will be evaluated at the appropriate time.

Information about After Care and Before Care?

Before Care begins at 7:00 AM. After Care is from 3:00 to 6:00. After Care begins August 18. After School Enrichment is in addition to the After Care program and will begin Sept. 1.

Will there be a baseball team?

There will not be a baseball team.

What will a day at Eagle Arts look like?

There are 6 Encores (Specials) that last 6 weeks long so that students have exposure to all 6 Encores.

What happened to the Facebook page?

The Facebook page has been taken down due to some abuse of the medium. We are a Charter School of the Arts but we are not into drama. The Governing Board requested the removal of the Facebook page as it became a communication tool that was not in the best interest of the school.

How will parents be notified of information?

The official communication tool of Eagle Arts Academy is the school website. The school has also adopted a School Informational System called Rediker that will be fully operational within the first month of school.

Is there sibling preference in the lottery system?

Yes



What is the new assessment?

Florida Standardized Assessment or FSA; we will following the compliance requirements of the state.

We are also using iReady for a diagnostic tool to know where students are allowing us to best information to address their needs.

Will there be a student-parent-school contract?

Yes

Who is the head of the ESE Department?

Eagle Arts is working to secure that position.

How will students' needs be integrated and how will rigor be incorporated into the arts curriculum?

Eagle Arts believes in teaching to the child. There will be no homogeneous classes. Looping will allow for teachers to know their students. Each class has 6 stations in order to offer small group instruction.

Will students be exposed to traditional literary works?

Yes, students will be exposed to the classics.

Can a parent opt their child out of the state assessment?

No, it is not allowed by the state of Florida. All students have to have a measureable assessment in order to be promoted.

How can we prepare our kids for assessments if there is no homework?

Students will bring home graded work from the school day for parents to review and to use as a study guide.

How will parents know what students are doing if there is no homework?

Through the School information System.

Will the school be using Running Records?

Yes, the school will be following the district guidelines for promotion criteria.

Can parents bring school supplies early?

Yes, there will be a Meet and Greet on August 15. More information will be posted on the website.

How will parents be notified of their child's academic status and what they are doing in school?

Through the School Information System Rediker.



What is the status of bussing?

The contract with the transportation company has been secured. The transportation company is working on assigning bus stops. The information will be posted on the website and parents will be notified as the information becomes available.

Will students participate in the county Science Fair?

Yes

Will other languages be offered?

In the future, Foreign Language will be added to the curriculum.

Lunch information?

Eagle Arts has contracted with the district. Information will be available on our website soon.

Will there be a staggered start for Kindergarten?

Information will be given for Kindergarten parents at the Kindergarten Round-Up on Saturday. Information will be posted on the website.