



2024-2025 CHARTER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

AASD offers a wide variety of unique academic programs, supports, and extracurricular activities in locations across Appleton at our 14 different charter schools, ensuring students have access to the tools they need to thrive and be successful.

Did you know that over 3,000 4K-12 Appleton Area School District students are enrolled in our 14 different free, public charter schools?

We encourage you to explore ALL of our charter schools to ensure that the climate, culture, and academic offerings will meet your student's needs and help them succeed!

Charter School Facts

- Charter schools are tuition-free and enrollment is voluntary
- Charters have the flexibility to design and deliver innovative curriculum in nontraditional ways to meet the needs of participating students
- Charters may not discriminate in admissions, programs, or activities
- Students take state tests required of other public school students
- Teachers are certified and licensed by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
- Staff are district employees and subject to all district policies and regulations

You Have Choices in the AASD

Charter schools in Appleton are all unique in their mission and offer diverse programming such as environmental education; engineering; fine arts; Montessori education - to name a few.

AASD offers a wide variety of unique academic programs, supports, and extracurricular activities in locations across Appleton, ensuring students have access to the tools they need to thrive and be successful. To fully compare school options and make informed selections we encourage our families to engage with ALL of the schools that interest them.

Explore Our Schools

Choosing a school for your child is an extremely important and personal decision, and it requires some research. The most important information is collected through personal experience, and we encourage prospective families to visit schools you are interested in and ask lots of questions so you can make an informed choice for your student.

School Tours & Visits

Schools may host virtual events and online informational sessions along with in-person tours and shadow days. Check school websites and the social media channels of schools you are interested in, or contact the school directly, to learn more about its plans.

Transportation

Transportation for charter school students is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

Ready to Apply?

Our charter school application window opens on **December 1, 2023**, for the 2024-2025 school year.

February 23, 2024, is the cutoff to be placed in the lottery. Applications after that date will be put on the waiting list if no spots are available in the order they are received.

All families will be notified by **March 8, 2024**, if a seat has been reserved for their student, or if their name has been added to a waiting list.

Our charter school application portal will remain open until the end of August. After that date, you can contact the charter school of your choosing directly to see if there are current openings.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR CHARTERS

Appleton Bilingual School - Grades K-5

Partner school with Columbus Elementary

Opened September 2011

912 N Oneida Street, Appleton

(920) 852-5535

<https://abs.aasd.k12.wi.us>

www.facebook.com/AppletonBilingualSchool



The Appleton Bilingual School develops academic excellence and language fluency in Spanish and English, builds cross-cultural relationships, and nurtures an enthusiasm for learning in order for students to achieve future educational and career success and to become active citizens in local and global communities.

Appleton eSchool - Grades 7-12

Located within East High School

Opened September 2002

2121 Emmers Drive

Appleton, WI 54915

(920) 852-5608

<http://eschool.aasd.k12.wi.us>

www.facebook.com/appletoneschool



Fully virtual? Part-time online? Blended schedule? 'A la carte' online courses? Appleton eSchool has the flexibility to help you reach your goals! In addition, you can earn an "online course ready" badge for your high school transcript to demonstrate your online learning excellence for post-high school readiness!

Appleton Public Montessori - Age 4 - Grade 6

Opened September 2005
1545 E Broadway Drive,
Appleton, WI 54913
(920) 852-5515

<https://apm.aasd.k12.wi.us/>

www.facebook.com/AppletonPublicMontessori



Why Montessori? Emphasis on the whole child, individualized learning, Montessori certified teachers, multi-age classrooms, Performing Arts instruction, Environmental Studies within Plamann Park, Community Art Partnerships, and promotes independence, respect, responsibility, and leadership.

Appleton Technical Academy - Grades 9-12

Located within West High School

Opened September 2014
610 N Badger Avenue
Appleton, WI 54914
(920) 852-5410

<https://atech.aasd.k12.wi.us/>

www.facebook.com/AppletonTechnicalAcademy



APPLETON TECHNICAL
ACADEMY

The Appleton Technical Academy (ATECH) is committed to providing high school students with a jump-start toward successful and rewarding careers within the modern manufacturing and technology industries.

We offer a unique blend of academic content focus and skill development in a highly engaging hands-on learning environment. By partnering with Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) and local business/industry, we are preparing our students for in-demand, high-paying occupations in high-growth industry sectors within the area of technology/manufacturing.

Classical School - Grades K-8

Opened September 1999
3310 N Durkee Street, Appleton
(920) 852-5525

<https://classical.aasd.k12.wi.us/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ClassicalSchoolAASD>



Classical School strives to develop graduates who are critical thinkers, coherent writers, confident speakers, thoughtful leaders, and virtuous citizens. The school day is structured around teacher-led instruction during which every educational minute matters.

Classical School is an official Core Knowledge Classical School® school that provides an engaging and academically rigorous curriculum (Core Knowledge® should not be confused with the Common Core Standards). The school promotes knowledge-centered education and the values of a democratic society.

Spanish language instruction is provided daily beginning in kindergarten. Exposure to Latin also begins in kindergarten. Students in grades K-8 participate in physical education, art, and music classes each week. Orchestra is available for students in grades 4- 8 and band for students in grades 5-8.

Did you know? The AASD has 14 public charter schools, second only to Milwaukee Public Schools, which has 19.

Foster Elementary Charter School - Grades K-6

Opened September 2006
305 W Foster Street, Appleton
(920) 852-5470

<https://foster.aasd.k12.wi.us/>

www.facebook.com/StephenFosterElementary



Foster creates partnerships among students, staff, parents, and community members to serve a diverse population of learners comprised of the neighborhood and open-enrolled students.

Foster develops independent learners who: honor diversity; show respect for themselves, others, and the environment; and seek to use their unique strengths to lead efforts to improve the world around them.

The innovative learning approach at Foster features the following components:

- Grade-level community service projects tied to standards
- Activities that promote diversity and celebrate different cultures
- Common Core Standards-based, differentiated instruction based upon informal assessment of student knowledge
- Strengths-based career exploration
- An emphasis on educating the "whole child"

Fox Cities Leadership Academy - Grades 9-12

Located within North High School

Opened September 2007
5000 N Ballard Road
Appleton, WI 54913
(920) 852-5405

<http://fcla.aasd.k12.wi.us/>

www.facebook.com/FoxCitiesLeadershipAcademy



FCLA offers a rigorous, contemporary & interdisciplinary curriculum that provides students with the opportunity to develop lifelong skills through our small learning community. Students will develop skills such as Critical thinking, Problem-solving, and Leadership.

How will FCLA enhance my child's high school experience? We focus on the big picture by incorporating standards from two or more subject areas (integrated curriculum), so that students develop a deeper understanding of the topic or concept being studied. FCLA works with students and families to create a high school educational experience to meet their post-secondary readiness goals. Credits in the FCLA are earned over a four-year timespan rather than in a single designated year. All courses will appear on the student's official transcript but will be asterisked, indicating to colleges that they are advanced courses.

What else makes the FCLA unique? FCLA students join a non-traditional learning community grounded in interdisciplinary coursework, contemporary issues, and working collaboratively with other students, staff, and community members; complete internships to explore post-secondary and career options; develop and present a professional leadership portfolio and resume; earn a Wisconsin Youth Leadership Skills Certificate issued by the DPI; and culminate their senior year with a student-designed Senior Capstone Project.

Learn more about the FCLA by contacting fcla@asd.k12.wi.us, visit our website, or register to attend one of our Shadow Days.

Fox River Academy - Grades K-8

Located within and on the campus of Jefferson Elementary

Opened September 2005

1000 S Mason Street, Appleton

(920) 852-5500

<https://fox.aasd.k12.wi.us/>

www.facebook.com/FoxRiverAcademyAASD



- Engaging learners in hands-on experiences
- Motivating students to life-long learning
- Using today's technology to protect tomorrow.

Fox River Academy is a nationally-recognized Green Ribbon School with a focus on the environment. Students are prepared to use 21st-century skills to problem solve.

FOX integrates an environmental theme in all core subject areas as well as through technology and STEM. At FOX, students don't just read about science, they experience it through observation and discovery.

Students engage in meaningful community service-learning projects through which they develop skills and make contacts that will benefit them in college and future careers. Teaming with local universities allows our students firsthand experiences that prepares them for higher education success. If your child is interested in the environment and you would like to see your child inspired to learn and excel academically, he or she will benefit from Fox River Academy!

Kaleidoscope Academy - Grades 6-8

Opened September 2007

318 E Brewster Street

Appleton, WI 54911

(920) 852-5430

<https://ka.aasd.k12.wi.us/>

www.facebook.com/kaleidoscopecardinals/



Kaleidoscope Academy is a dynamic middle school focused on student voice and choice, student-centered learning, relationships, and social-emotional skills. Students have more choice and flexibility through diverse course options. These include classes such as dance, app creation, culinary, interior design, theater, personal fitness, 2-D and 3-D art, graphic arts, STEM offerings, and creative music making. All other middle level course traditional options are available to students as well.

Kaleidoscope Academy uses flexible blocks of time with interdisciplinary teaming in a technology-rich environment. Instruction is inquiry-based and progressively project-based. Transitioning from elementary school is smoother as students work within a two-teacher team for two-thirds of their day. For students looking for an innovative and collaborative learning environment, Kaleidoscope Academy provides the opportunity for students to make their own choices, develop their interests at an earlier age and prepares them with the skills needed to tackle complex tasks in an everchanging global society.

To learn more about the Kaleidoscope Academy and upcoming informational meetings please visit our website.

The Omoladé Academy - Grades K-3

Opening fall 2024

Named "The Omoladé Academy" - which translates to "Child of the Crown" in the Yoruba language - this charter school aims to provide a holistic educational experience that celebrates the cultural heritage of African descendants while fostering intellectual, leadership, and entrepreneurial talents in students.

The Academy will teach an African-centered core curriculum approach, along with a rigorous STREEM curriculum, integrating Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Entrepreneurship, Arts, and Math.

The mission of The Omoladé Academy is to ensure that each child becomes a competitive and bold change-maker in our global society.

Renaissance School for the Arts - Grades 9-12

Located within West High School

Opened September 2000

610 N Badger Avenue

Appleton, WI 54914

(920) 852-5611

<http://rsa.aasd.k12.wi.us/>

www.facebook.com/RSAAppleton/



What is RSA? The Renaissance School for the Arts High School has been a charter high school in Appleton for over 20 years. We are an arts-based school dedicated to blending high-quality arts experiences with advanced academic coursework/scheduling that mirrors college life. We seek to tap into the creativity of all students and provide experiences that build that creative capacity and apply it to significant academic and artistic endeavors.

Students attending RSA complete courses in the afternoon that satisfy their ELA, social studies, fine arts, and physical education requirements, while completing the remainder of their graduation requirements in their "Morning School" of choice (West, East, or North).

RSA has been a charter high school for over 20 years. We seek to tap into the creativity of all students and provide experiences that build that creative capacity and apply it to significant academic and artistic endeavors. Students attending RSA complete courses in the afternoon that satisfy their ELA, social studies, fine arts, and physical education requirements, while completing the remainder of their graduation requirements in their "Morning School" of choice (West, East, or North).

Who is the school designed for? We find students have the best experience when they have the following desires for their high school experience:

1. Desire to attend a 4-year university and/or desire the challenge of taking college prep coursework
2. Have a desire to explore ALL arts including Dance, Theatre, Visual Arts, Creative Writing, and Music
3. Desire a small community-centered school (under 200 students) that promotes tolerance and a family feel in their courses and activities

Tesla Engineering Charter School - Grades 9-12

Located within East High School

Opened September 2002

2121 Emmers Drive

Appleton, WI 54915

(920) 852-5400

<http://tesla.aasd.k12.wi.us/>

www.facebook.com/TeslaCharter



Provides a comprehensive, challenging educational experience created to meet the needs of students with an interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics or STEM.

Implementing a course of instruction developed and supported by Project Lead The Way, Tesla strives to help students understand the practical application of math, science, and technology in the context of engineering and design.

Valley New School - Grades 7-12

Located within City Center Plaza

Opened September 2003

122 E. College Ave, Suite 2B

Appleton, WI 54911

(920) 852-5605

<http://vns.aasd.k12.wi.us>

www.facebook.com/ValleyNewSchool



Valley New School is a learning community that empowers individuals to become purposeful adults.

VNS welcomes all students grades 7-12 to design and implement a truly Personalized Learning Plan based on their passions, future goals, current strengths, and areas for personal and academic growth.

Through project-based learning, students learn how to learn: they conduct in-depth research on topics of interest, create high-quality products that analyze and synthesize what they have learned, and utilize reflection to grow. Our 17:1 student-advisor ratio and multiage advisories ensure long-term relationships and individual support.

VNS graduates are self-aware, community-minded, and versatile. They communicate effectively and have learned to manage their time and tasks, set and accomplish goals, utilize technology and resources, and collaborate to create innovation.

To learn more about our student-driven educational environment as well as upcoming events, Shadow Days, and information sessions, please visit our website.

The Appleton Area School District does not discriminate against students on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, age, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or physical, cognitive, emotional or learning disability in its education programs or activities. No qualified person with a disability will, because the District's facilities are inaccessible to or unusable by persons with disabilities, be denied the benefits of, be excluded from participation in, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity to which Section 504/ADA applies. As to facilities, the District will conduct its programs or activities so that, when viewed in their entirety, they are readily accessible to disabled persons. To the extent a program or activity is now held in an inaccessible location, it will be moved to an accessible location upon request.

Wisconsin Connections Academy - Grades 4K-12

Opened September 2002

350 W Capitol Drive, Appleton

(920) 852-5415

<https://wca.aasd.k12.wi.us/>

<https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinConnectionsAcademy>



A leader in virtual education, Wisconsin Connections Academy (WCA) creates dynamic opportunities for learners to succeed. At the heart of WCA is a standards-based curriculum. This comprehensive curriculum affords WCA students the ability to receive a quality education within an environment that is most conducive to their learning while parents enjoy greater involvement in their children's educational life.

The curriculum is delivered via the Internet with online materials including lessons, textbooks, workbooks, and other supplementary materials.

Although students attend school from a variety of locations, WCA is committed to making each experience meaningful and successful in an environment that is most conducive to student learning. Therefore, each student works with Wisconsin-licensed teachers and a Learning Coach (usually a parent). These individuals work together to combine the best in virtual education with very real connections among students, families, teachers, and community.

LEARN MORE ABOUT CHARTERS

What is a Charter School?

Charter schools are public, free, nonsectarian schools created through a contract or "charter" between the operators and the sponsoring school board. The Wisconsin charter school law gives charter schools freedom from most state rules and regulations in exchange for greater accountability for results.

The charter defines the missions and methods of a charter school; the chartering authority (school board) holds the school accountable to its charter.

Charter School Facts

- Charter schools are tuition-free and enrollment is voluntary
- Charters have the flexibility to design and deliver innovative curriculum in nontraditional ways to meet the needs of participating students
- Charters may not discriminate in admissions, programs, or activities
- Students take state tests required of other public school students
- Teachers are certified and licensed by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
- Staff are district employees and subject to all district policies and regulations