

Kingston Hill Academy

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*Kingston Hill Academy is dedicated to providing students with the opportunity for an **inclusive, individualized, and challenging** curriculum that supports them to reach their full potential.*

Frequently Asked Questions

➤ **When will KHA hold the lottery?**

All schools in the Rhode Island League of Charter Schools hold their individual lotteries on the same day. Typically, that day is April 5th. Due to the number of applicants, KHA will not be able to call all families to let them know where they fall in the lottery. Families will be called only if their lottery number has been selected for admission. Families are welcome to call to find out their status at any time.

➤ **How will I be notified if I am accepted in the lottery?**

Due to the large volume of applicants, KHA will not be able to call all families to let them know where they fall in the lottery. Families will be called only if their lottery number has been selected for admission. Families not accepted in the lottery will receive notification via mail that the lottery has been drawn and that there are no available spots at the present time. Families are welcome to call to find out their individual status and lottery ranking at any time after the lottery has been held.

➤ **Do I have to fill out an application for the lottery?**

Yes, the Rhode Island Department of Education has recently given all charter schools lottery application templates that must be used in the lottery process. A copy of this template is available on-line at our web site or by calling the main office at 783-8282.

➤ **If one child is accepted to KHA will I have to send my other children to different schools?**

Luckily, the state of Rhode Island allows for sibling preference for admission to charter schools. Thus, if you have one child that attends KHA, then the sibling can be automatically enrolled as long as there is a grade level opening for the sibling.

➤ **If my child didn't get accepted in the lottery this year, do I have to go through the lottery again the next year?**

Yes, the Rhode Island Department of Education recently released guidelines for all charter schools to follow when conducting lotteries. At this time, the guidelines state that families must re-apply each year to charter schools.

➤ **If I did get accepted this year and enroll my child in KHA, will I have to go through the lottery again in the future?**

No, once enrolled and attending KHA during the school year, families do not have to go through the lottery again in future years as long as they continue their enrollment throughout the school year.

➤ **What grades will KHA have next year?**

KHA will have one Kindergarten Class, one First Grade (Spanish Focus), two Second Grade classes (one with Spanish focus), two Third Grade classes (both with Spanish focus), a Fourth Grade, one Fourth/Fifth Combination (Spanish focus), and one Fifth Grade class.

➤ **What is the student to teacher ratio?**

At KHA, class size is measured differently than in many typical public schools. At KHA, the number of students in a homeroom does not reflect the overall teaching ratio of a student's day because KHA groups students by developmental skills for Language Arts and Mathematics as well as by interest level for Individual Learning Plans. Furthermore, teacher assistants, administrators, and special services teachers are able to reduce the teacher to student ratio during both small group instructional periods and during homeroom periods. Students spend approximately 55% of their academic time in the homeroom class. The other 45% of their academic time is spent in small group instruction for language arts and mathematics as well as some time in Individual Learning Plan groups once a week. The ratios in small groups can range anywhere from 1:1 to 20:1 depending on the needs and makeup of each individual group.

➤ **What grade will KHA go to in the future?**

Although KHA is chartered to go through grade eight, currently KHA only has facilities and resources to offer a K-5 program with a possibility of students staying for sixth grade. Program options through eighth grade may be possible in the future if building resources become available.

➤ **What about a gym and library?**

KHA is in the process of taking bids and planning to build a gymnasium and possible classroom space for a middle school program. Although KHA was chartered with a library exception, we are looking into the possibility of adding extra space to the gymnasium project in addition to extra classroom space. These additions will be dependent on funding.

➤ **Is there tuition or any fees to attend KHA?**

There is no tuition or any fees to attend Kingston Hill Academy. As a public school, KHA is funded through public tax dollars and State and Federal grants.

➤ **Is there bus transportation?**

The district of residence for each student is responsible for transportation to any school within its region. KHA receives bus transportation from the towns of South Kingstown, Narragansett, Chariho, North Kingstown, Westerly, and Exeter/West Greenwich.

➤ **How does that small group thing work again?**

Students are placed in flexible groups (students have the ability to change groups at any time) for reading, writing, & spelling as well as for individual learning plans (special interests such as drama, foreign language, art), and for thematic centers. Depending on the dynamics of the students in the school at any given time, the small groups range anywhere from one to three students (intensive instruction), to five to ten students (moderate intensity) and sometime fifteen to twenty students (facilitation - students working at high independent levels). The typical size of a small group is eight or nine students. Besides a more intimate academic experience, the way in which students transition to flexible small groups has shown to produce greater independence and confidence for students. This is most likely due to working with a more diverse variety of staff and children in multiple settings and the ability to move to different groups in the building independently.

➤ **What do students do during homeroom times?**

Although much of KHA's curriculum is delivered through small group instruction, students are still able to derive a sense of smaller community from their homeroom classes. Homerooms begin each day with a morning meeting. Students also spend lunch, recess, and physical education as well as other fine arts classes with their homeroom class. In the afternoons, homeroom class is where many of the integrated disciplines are taught such as science, writing, and social studies. On Fridays, students spend the entire day in their homeroom classes. Friday is often the day for special guests, field trips, open-ended hands on lessons, and other classroom adventures.

➤ **What specials classes do you offer (music/art/PE/technology)?**

Students receive Physical Education & Health three times a week for ½ hour sessions. This schedule is new for the 2006-2007 school year so that students would have physical activity more often during the week. For other specialty areas, KHA allows students to choose specific interests as part of their ILP plan. These may include drama, technology, foreign language, specialized science, chess, outdoor games, and many more. The KHA staff as well as consultants works with students in ILP groups on Wednesday afternoons for approximately 1 hour. In addition to ILP day, certified teachers and professionals are contracted to work with students in specialized programs such as art, music, drama, creative movement and yoga, and other art and leisure activities. In addition, KHA teachers incorporate art and music into their homeroom lessons and we are constantly working on ways to include the arts into integrated lessons in social studies and science. Finally, KHA seeks performers to come to the school throughout the year as well as provide exposure to music and art through field trips.

➤ **What is a charter school anyway?**

Basically, a charter school has one primary function in public education. Charter schools gives parents a choice in deciding to attend a district of residence public school or a charter school. In addition, charter schools may have a specific focus within curriculum, class size, and methodology. Charter schools are also intended to be an investigation into revolutionary and innovative educational practices. Each charter is renewed every five years by the Rhode Island Board of Regents through assessment and site visits from the Rhode Island Department of Education. KHA is also accountable in the same way as any other public school in the state in regards to state assessment, teacher quality, and other state and federal regulations. KHA was given its first charter re-newel by the Rhode Island Board of Regents in the summer of 2006.

➤ **What makes KHA's charter special?**

There are so many answers to that question! However, primarily KHA's charter focuses on three principles. First, Individualized Learning Plans (ILPs) for all students. At KHA we see your child as an individual and recognize each child's educational, emotional, and behavioral strengths and limitations. Second, children with disabilities (IEPs and 504 Plans) are included within the general education curriculum. All KHA staff takes responsibility for students with special needs, there are no self-contained classrooms in which students are separated from the general education peers. Finally, KHA seeks to provide students with a challenging education. The staff works hard to make sure all students are learning at their own developmental pace and that each student is challenged academically.

➤ **What else makes KHA special?**

In addition to ILPs for all students and inclusion of special needs students, KHA focuses on early academics especially in the areas of reading and mathematics. By instructing students in small groups, students are able to develop academic skills at their own developmental pace. In addition, KHA balances basic academics with a rich arts, science, and culture curriculum. Using field trips, integrated lessons, and real world experiences, students are able to use the skills that are learned in small group instruction. Finally, KHA utilizes a state of the art stress reduction program called relaxation. Students learn relaxation skills throughout the year to help them problem solve stressful situations at school, home, and in the community.