

The Charter School of Fort Pierce:

A Saint Lucie County Public School of *Parental Choice*, an alternative for parents to traditional public schools... Their Story, Their Continuation, Their Mission to serve Saint Lucie's future Leaders of America.

By: Lauren Keller

According to the Florida Department of Education and the Office of *Parental Choice*: Charter schools are public schools of *choice*. They are very popular—and are among the fastest growing school choice options in Florida. Charter schools are largely free to innovate, and often provide more effective programs and choice to diverse groups of students. Since 1996, the number of charter schools in Florida has grown from 5 to 389 schools in 2008-2009. Charter school student enrollment for 2008-2009 was well over 100,000 students. Over 50 new charter schools opened in the 2008-2009 school year.

In 2008-2009 the Charter School of Fort Pierce (CSFP) became one of those 50 new schools to open as they entered into a 6 year renewable contract with the Saint Lucie County School Board as their first Public Charter School of *Choice* in 10 years. Though the school has incurred many challenges from its conception in 2006 to its birth in its first year of operation in 2008, including the wrath of Tropical Storm Faye which forced the school to relocate for two months, CSFP is now in its second year of operation and continues to thrive.

This summer, many parents exercised their *Parental Choice* rights and ran to enroll their students in the *Choice Option* public charter school.



The school specializes in offering students an education plan which is tailored to their individual need. Many of the parents who have chosen to enroll their students in the school have reported that they were not completely satisfied with their student's educational experience at the traditional public schools.

The school currently has open enrollment for all age-appropriate students in grades 6-10. Offering a tuition free educational *choice option* for families in Saint Lucie County.

CSFP offers individual education plans for Traditional, ESOL, ESE, and Honors students, they provide them with free transportation within the Green Zone and accommodates those who do not receive bus services by operating on early and extended hours.

Part of the schools' mission is to respect the diversity of the Saint Lucie County community by serving and recruiting students from ALL ethnicities, nationalities, races, ability levels, and genders.

CSFP offers a promise to provide a positive transition for students from large traditional schools, to a small, safe, secure, family-like environment where each student is treated with care and compassion, and has their individual needs met.

Parents have reported that once they have made the switch they have made the right decision as CSFP adds tremendous value to their child's academic life.

The school is currently looking to recruit and enroll new students so it can continue to have a positive educational impact on the lives of students within Saint Lucie County.

Attention Parents of Students in Saint Lucie County Public and Private Schools!!! Your students new educational home is waiting for them...



Did you know that there is still time to switch your child to a *school of choice* for the 2009-10 school year? If you are not completely satisfied with your student's educational experience so far, now is the time to consider the Charter School of Fort Pierce (CSFP) as your child's new educational home.

The Charter School of Fort Pierce is a Saint Lucie County public charter *school of choice* offering a tuition free educational *choice option* for families in Saint Lucie County.

CSFP has teachers who are certified and highly qualified. They are passionate about their subjects, and their students. Their innovative programs prepare students for both careers and college. For example, students are encouraged to participate in Dual Enrollment at Indian River State College (IRSC), as well as enroll in Florida Virtual School. The school also offers Work Experience for credit for those in high school level who want to earn academic credit by working and keeping a journal.

CSFP also offers a self-contained sixth grade experience! Sixth-graders stay with their primary teacher for most classes, rotating only for PE and electives. This gives sixth-graders an easier

transition from elementary to secondary school. Students enrolling now will be able to stay at the same school through graduation from high school. Next year, grade 11 will be added; grade 12 is coming the year after.

CSFP is located in the old Orange Blossom Mall at 4300 Okeechobee Rd., Fort Pierce, FL 34947.

For more information or to schedule a tour please contact us at by phone at 772-323-7185 or 772-453-8359.

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