

Eagles Wings Charter Schools Family Handbook



Revised: August 15, 2023



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What is a Charter School?

Eagles' Wings Charter Schools are Instrumentality Charter Schools. They are a part of the School District of Solon Springs and our schools' administrator and staff are district employees. Even so, it is still a Charter School and that means:

- Charter schools are exempt from some State and local rules that inhibit flexible operation.
- Eagles Wings Charter Schools are public schools operated under public supervision and direction.
- The educational objectives are determined by the school's administrator and Governance Board..
- Parents freely choose to send their children to a charter school and enroll their child/ren in the appropriate school within our school district.
- The schools have a written performance contract with the school district..
- The Governance Board plays a substantive role in directing and supporting the school.

Mission, Vision, Values

Eagles' Wings Charter Schools are a part of the School District of Solon Springs

The mission of the School District of Solon Springs is to nurture and empower all learners through educational options.

The Vision and Values of each school within our district are summarized below:



Virtual school serves self-directed learners who are seeking flexible, rigorous learning opportunities that are not bound by schedules or location. (k-12)



Eagles Academy where students learn through interdisciplinary projects, rooted in our community so that they can step out into our world as great, happy humans. (6-12)



This time tested educational opportunity provides a hands-on, flexible, follow the child approach where all learners feel valued and value others. It is responsive to individuals and families. (4k-6)



Our Legacy option is a cornerstone educational opportunity in the District with a well defined scope and sequence and highly instructed opportunities for learning. (4k-12)

Charter Schools Overview

Eagles' Wings Charter Schools,

All located in the School District of Solon Springs,
8993 E Baldwin • Solon Springs, WI 54873

These three schools provide learning opportunities for students in the School District of Solon Springs and surrounding area.

- Virtual charter school (k-12)
- Public Montessori (PK-6)
- Eagles Academy, Project/Place Based (6-12)

Learning Opportunities

Eagles' Wings Charter Schools focus on preparing students to engage effectively in the world around them through learning models that best fit their learning style—virtual, Montessori, and project-based, place based education.

Co-curricular Activities

Eagles' Wings Charter Schools students may participate in all of the co-curricular activities available at Solon Springs School.

Parent Advisory Group:

We welcome all families to become involved in their students' education. There are many ways to do so including volunteering in the classroom, helping with a fundraiser, attending school events, donating supplies in the classroom, and more! Please contact Christine Nordness at cnordness@solonk12.net for more information about this important vehicle for supporting our charter school students and staff.

Academic Guidelines and Expectations

Eagles' Wings Charter Schools will adhere to the district student and faculty handbooks. For expectations related to behavior, attendance, academics and co-curricular participation, please reference the linked handbooks below or request a copy in the District Office. In order to avoid issues related to grading and transcripts, a transfer between schools during the school year entails a joint decision with family, student, charter coordinator and district principal. This decision requires unenrollment from one school and enrolling in the school of choice.

- [District Handbooks](#)

The Charter Schools will operate under structures that are different from the Legacy School in order to achieve the mission of each of the charter schools. Therefore, the District hereby grants the charter schools waivers of the following school district policies:

- The Charter School agrees to follow the basic school district calendar, but is granted the flexibility to modify the calendar in order to provide unique educational activities, including the number of days students are required to attend.
- The Charter School is granted the flexibility to differ from other schools in the district regarding the number of hours in a school day, the number of hours attended throughout the school year, and the number of minutes of instruction.
- The Charter School is granted the authority to determine the curriculum taught in the school, including the choice of instructional materials, and to engage in curriculum planning and recording in order to reflect the mission of the school.
- The Charter School is granted the flexibility to differ from other schools in the district regarding student assessment and reporting to reflect the virtual, Montessori, or project-based learning environment in the Charter School.
- The Charter School is granted the flexibility to modify the student code of conduct to reflect the unique nature of the school.

What you can expect from your teacher

- The teachers are eager to facilitate learning for our students and to watch them succeed.

- Uphold the philosophy and mission of Eagles' Wings Charter Schools.
- Utilize electronic tools for keeping parents informed of student progress.
- Provide open communication through a variety of means: digital tools, email, phone, etc.
- Offer meaningful opportunities to share and become involved in classroom activities.

What we expect from our students

We will extend every effort to assist our students, expecting they will match our efforts.

- Plan to complete grade-level quality work that reflects appropriate effort, turned in on time.
- Participate in class, be an active listener, ask for help, and use work time productively
- Be prepared for class each day (as directed by teacher/guide/advisor)
- Follow the grace and courtesy expectations outlined by the Montessori model, Daily attendance requirements/and interface with Virtual Facilitator of the Virtual Charter and the commitments of the Project Based Charter.
- Check digital communications from staff on a daily basis
- Communicate honestly with both families and teachers
- Use class time to keep up with work, using home time to finish, as necessary.

What we expect from families:

Communication among families, students, and staff is a necessity to facilitate success for students. Active participation of families in the educational environment is one of the strongest indicators of success for students.

- Recognize and support the mission of Eagles' Wings Charter Schools
- Expected attendance at an Open House/Orientation session to acclimate to school expectations and digital resources
- Participate in fall conferences, as well as, presentations of learning and other events planned
- Participation in a school fundraising effort (time or donation).
- Monitor school and classwork regularly, modeling Montessori's grace and courtesy or the expectations of the Virtual as well as Eagles' Academy, at home and support student acquisition of the same.
- Communicate daily with your child regarding school

- Provide quality space, time and support to encourage completion of school work at home.
- Communicate promptly with teachers regarding student progress, concerns or questions.

SST (Student Support Team)

The staff recognizes and understands that some students require additional academic support and we are committed to providing this for them. Additionally, we are aware that students occasionally fall behind, if they are not following the guidelines stated above, and this in turn causes missing work and/or poor performance. In this event, the student's team of teachers will meet to develop a plan to assist the student. The following SST steps will be followed with documentation to support success for each student.

- Confer with student to develop a plan
- Contact with parents
- Meeting with parents and student
- Meeting with administration and team where the most appropriate educational program for the student is discussed.
- Building Plan will be initiated (a written document to describe strategies in place to assist student) *In the event the student has an IEP, it will be the main guideline for developing a plan of support.

Eagles' Wings Charter Schools is proud to extend students an opportunity to learn in a creative and collaborative environment. We are confident that students, teachers, and families can work together to assist struggling students to develop a plan for appropriate progress and work production.

Once a plan has been in place and monitored over a designated period of time, plans will be reviewed and modified as needed so the student can have successful outcomes.

Application and Lottery Process

Will apply to each charter school.

Public Montessori , Virtual and Eagles’ Academy

Approved: February 11, 2019, updated October 12, 2020 , and August 2022 to include all charter schools.

I. Admission Requirements

- A. Eagles' Wings Charter Schools (EWCS) schools are open to all students in the School District of Solon Springs (SDSS), as well as students applying to SDSS through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) open enrollment process. Application to and attendance at EWCS is voluntary and no tuition is charged. Students who do not wish to attend or are not admitted to EWCS can seek enrollment in another SDSS school per SDSS board policy.
- B. Parents will enroll their children by written registration form. A parent/guardian is encouraged to attend one informational meeting and visit EWCS of choice in order to assure understanding of the nature and work of the school.
- C. If the number of applicants exceeds available positions, a lottery procedure will be employed.
- D. Students may enroll and attend EWCS during the school year as space permits in accordance with these guidelines until November 1st for the current school year. Applications received after this will be admitted the following year as space permits. [Exceptions may be approved by the administration on a case by case basis] Prior to enrollment the student's family should have a conference with the teachers, who will explain the teaching philosophy. It is not academically ideal to begin Montessori Learning after the school year has begun as teaching and learning techniques build on previously taught concepts and methods. Starting November 1st, the waiting list no longer applies and no more students or applications will be accepted for that current year.
- E. Enrollment caps in EWPM will be as listed below.

Children's House - 20 students El - 20 students. E2 - 20 students

II. Enrollment

- A. Once a student is accepted into EWCS he/she will automatically be

enrolled from year to year, unless the student has chosen to become unenrolled. He/she does not have to go through the lottery process each year.

- B. A student who withdraws and later wishes to enroll again will need to reapply and will have no priority over students applying for the first time.
- C. Enrollments will be ranked by application date and time as documented by office staff on the enrollment application.
- D. Students must be enrolled or open-enrolled and registered in the SDSS to attend EWCS.
- E. Special needs of students will be met according to the goals of their IEP (Individualized Education Program). The SDSS will provide needed special education services as appropriate.
- F. If applications are received prior to March 31 students are accepted until all available seats are filled.
- G. The administration has the authority to accept more students per grade than what is outlined in II. The waiting list does not roll over from year to year.
- H. Siblings of current EWCS students, children of the charter school's founders, governance board members, and full-time employees will receive enrollment preference and will be exempt from the lottery if space in that grade level is available, *but the total number of such children given preference will constitute no more than 10 percent of the charter school total enrollment*. If space is not available these students will be given priority on the waiting list. (Current students refers to those presently attending EWPM students and students that have been accepted for the coming year.)*
- I. If a lottery is necessary, all families on the waiting list will be notified. The lottery date will be announced and open to the public.

III. Procedures for a lottery are:

A. Numbering

- 1. Students' names will be listed on a roster in alphabetical order and by grade. Students will be assigned a number in the order of the names. [To keep students' names confidential only the

numbers will be announced and made note of. If parents are present for the lottery they may receive their child's number so they know what order their child is selected in.] As described above.

- B. Siblings of current students will be accepted before the lottery *if there is an opening* in that grade. Siblings of current students must follow the application process.
- C. The selection process will begin with the lowest grade first.
- D. The numbers for that grade will be placed in a bin. Numbers will be drawn for the available seats. The order in which they were selected will be documented for view at the meeting. Once a grade level is filled the process will continue to fill the class and establish a waiting list. Students will be placed on the waiting list based on the order they were drawn.
- E. Older and same grade siblings will be admitted once a student's number is selected for enrollment. If the grade level is already full the sibling(s) will be placed first on the waiting list for that grade level.*
- F. Once the drawing for a grade level is complete that grade level waiting list is set and will not change.

Eagles Academy

Approved: March 1, 2022

- I. Admission to the Charter School and admissions lottery
 - A. The Charter School is open to all students in grades 6 to 12 who (i) reside in the District or (ii) are enrolled in the District pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 118.51, 118.52, or 118.53.
 - B. The Governance Board will set enrollment limits for the following school year by December 1 and submit them to the District by January 1. If the number of enrollment applications exceeds the enrollment limit, the school will select students on a random lottery basis. The Charter School will give preference to pupils and siblings of pupils who are already attending the Charter School. Open enrolled applicants who meet the eligibility requirements and select the Charter School as a preference will be placed in the Charter School if space is available. If a student who has selected the Charter School as a preference is a student with a disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, placement will be determined by the IEP team in accordance with federal law.

- C. In addition, the Charter School will give preference to children of the charter school's founders, governance board members, and full-time employees but the total number of such children given preference will constitute no more than 10 percent of the charter school's total enrollment.
- D. The District may include in its lottery all nonresident applicants who seek enrollment in the Charter School. An open-enrolled applicant's admission to the Charter School will be contingent on the student's enrollment in the District.
- E. Students may transfer between the Charter school and the school district once during the school year. They will remain in their transfer school the remainder of the school year and will be eligible to re-enroll (apply) for the following school year.

Enrollment Applications:

- *Eagles' Wings Public Montessori*
- *Eagles Academy*
- *Virtual Charter Registration*

Governance Board

Governance Board Members as of August 2023

Ida Sampson, President

Joleigh Little, Secretary

Stacy Burfield, Director

Brandon Golburg, Director

Governance Board Member Responsibilities:

The Eagles' Wings Charter Schools Governance Board consists of staff, families, and community members and is responsible for:

- Submitting, maintaining, and complying with the contractual obligations as required by the School District of Solon Springs (SDSS) for each of the three Charter Schools.
- Collaborating with the SDSS in selecting Administrator and staff
- Working closely with the Administrator to ensure all educational goals are met
- Overseeing the mission, strategic plan, and achievement of school goals
- Coordinating public relationships, collaborations, and strategies
- Establishing policies
- Oversight and approval of the annual site budget and major expenditures

Governance Board members agree to:

- Attend regular meetings of the Governance Board, which are each approximately one hour in duration. The Governance Board meets monthly on the 2nd Monday at 4:00 pm.
- Provide leadership to Governance Board committees and must be accessible for personal contact in between meetings.
- Each Governance Board member is expected to serve as an active, ongoing member of at least one committee.
- Commit time to developing financial and other resources for Eagles' Wings Charter Schools.
- Review and act upon committee recommendations brought to the Governance Board for action.
- Prepare in advance for decision-making and policy formation at Governance Board meetings and take responsibility for self-education on the major issues before the Governance Board.
- Participate in the annual Governance Board member self-review process.
- Participate in the annual Governance Board development and planning retreat in January of each school year.
- Tour the school and visit classrooms at least one time each year.
- Utilize personal and professional skills, relationships, and knowledge for the advancement of Eagles' Wings Charter Schools.

We welcome any and all families/students/community members to attend our monthly meetings, as a visitor you are welcome during all discussions. Only board members have voting privileges.