



Cascade Locks Community School

FAQs [Frequently Asked Questions]

April 2, 2010

Why does Cascade Locks need a charter school?

The citizens of Cascade Locks want to choose how it educates the children and future leaders of its community.

K-8 education at Cascade Locks is currently available at the discretion of a distant school board in Hood River. The recent closure of the Cascade Locks High School, despite local outcry, shows the vulnerability of our local neighborhood schools.

Cascade Locks citizens and community partners convened in early 2009, and discussions led to the monumental decision to form a charter school offering a quality K-12 education that has a strong community focus and local autonomy.

A charter school in Cascade Locks will focus on setting high standards for educational quality, offering programs designed to meet the individual needs of our students, and creating a strong community hub for our citizens by partnering local businesses and organizations with the school and its families.

At what stage is the formation of the Cascade Locks charter school?

The founding committee was recently awarded a grant for the application of the formation of a K-12 charter school. This grant is evidence that expert reviewers have already seen our proposal and are convinced of its viability.

If the application is approved by the Hood River County School District, the school will receive up to \$450,000 to start up the school for the next two years, depending on enrollment.

Next steps will involve the Hood River County School District Board review of the charter school application. Concurrently, the founding committee is continuing to assess the interest and potential enrollment for the 2010/2011 school year by asking interested families for letters of Intent-To-Enroll.

When will the Cascade Locks Community charter school be open?

If the charter application process goes smoothly, Cascade Locks Community Charter School may be open as early as September 2010.

What is the cost to attend the Cascade Locks Community charter school?

None. Charter schools are public schools. No tuition may be charged.

Who gets to attend this charter school?

Residents of the Hood River County School District have first priority for admission to Cascade Locks Community Charter School.

Students may apply at all levels from Kindergarten to Grade 12 regardless of their home school districts. Students are admitted on a first-come, first served basis, or by lottery when applicants exceed available slots.

What will the Cascade Locks Community charter school offer my kids?

The new Cascade Locks Community charter school aims to provide:

- Small school environment with excellent teachers, carefully selected curriculum, and supportive staff.
- Community collaboration for partnership, public service, and internship/mentorship.

The mission is to provide a local quality K-12 education that aligns with state standards in a supportive small-school environment that fosters academic excellence, community partnership, and responsible citizenship.

In essence, that means the Cascade Locks Community charter school will:

- Provide an innovative exciting environment that inspires an enduring love for learning.
- Create excitement for learning by providing relevant and challenging experiences.
- Encourage each student to achieve their highest educational and personal potential.
- Increase high school graduation rates.
- Broaden educational opportunities – academic, professional, or occupational.

Describe the proposed curriculum at the Cascade Locks Community School?

Specifically, the proposed curriculum is an education that is defined by:

- Place-based learning
- Project-based learning
- Student plan of achievement
- Student advisory system
- Extra-curricular sports program through Oregon State Athletic Association (OSAA)
- Proficiency-based grading model
- Multi-age classrooms
- Service learning focus

Will the current public K-8 education continue to be available?

The Hood River County School Board has recently announced that the current K-8 school in Cascade Locks is expected to be open for the 2010/2011 school year. However, the Cascade Locks elementary and middle schools continue to be subject to annual review by the Hood River County District School Board.

What do you envision the future of the Cascade Locks Community Charter School?

We believe we can be a premier community-oriented school in the Pacific Northwest with emphasis on academic excellence and community values. We can provide community leadership and guidance to help our students broaden educational horizons and chart a course for the future.

We can achieve this by setting our sights on these goals:

- Inspire a love for learning and a thirst for knowledge
- Infuse community values by engaging in local partnerships, public service, and life skills.
- Initiate regional and global outlooks, connecting the local community to the nation and the world.