

Charter Schools: Solutions for DoD Family Communities

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Belle Chasse Academy New Orleans, Louisiana



The mission of the Belle Chasse Academy is the nurture of the military child.....



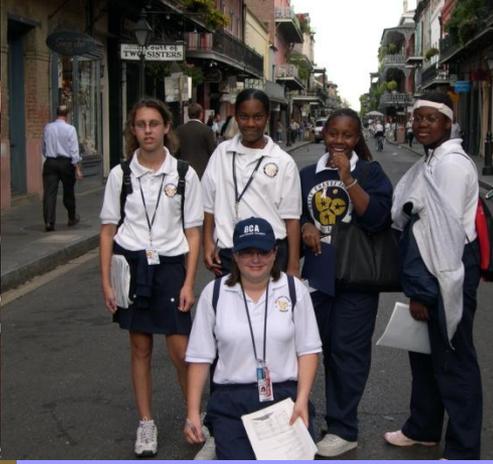
Belle Chasse Academy, Louisiana

Belle Chasse Academy, Louisiana



...in an educational environment focused on academic excellence





...in a replicable model that can be applied in military communities across the country.



Belle Chasse Academy, Louisiana

Belle Chasse Academy

- First charter school aboard a DoD installation
- Serves 96% military dependents; a de facto DoD school
- Conceived in 2000; opened in 2002
- \$12.2 facility
- Opened with 620 K-8 students
- Current enrollment of 905 students
- Annual budget of \$13.7 M
- Funded by State of Louisiana and U.S. Department of Education

Shared Core Beliefs

- All children can learn, and every child should be challenged to reach his/her full potential;
- Parents should be actively engaged in their children's academic learning;
- Dependent children of military parents possess unique stressors which must be addressed in the school environment;

- Students functioning below grade-level proficiency should receive remedial instruction to catapult them forward;
- Students functioning above grade-level proficiency should be allowed to accelerate through the curriculum;
- Nurture of the whole child through arts, athletics, and community service is vital;
- Substantial and direct involvement of all stakeholders (students, teachers, parents, support staff, and community) is necessary in the development and realization of the school vision.

Student Demographics

- 905 students, kindergarten through eighth grade
- 42% Reduced-and-Free Lunch ("at-risk") population
- Population reflects the racial diversity of our armed forces. Currently:
 - 48% African American, 40% White, 8% Hispanic, 3% Asian, 1% American Indian
- Special Populations:
 - 60 Students with disabilities, 31 Students with 504 Accommodations, 27 Speech Only, 39 Gifted, 11 Talented, 16 ELL

School Academic Program

- Content Standards, Benchmarks, Grade Level Expectations, Scope and Sequence
- "Comprehensive Curriculum"
- "High Quality" professional development
- Technology rich environment
- Teacher collaboration
- = Making Adequate Yearly Progress

The "Whole Child" Program

- Spanish instruction
- Enrichment instruction
- Extracurricular activities
- Athletics
- "Positive Behavior Supports," CHARACTER COUNTS!™, and Olweus Anti-bullying Program
- Comprehensive guidance program for the military child
- Aggressive parent involvement strategies

Creation Timeline

- October 2000: "Creation" team assembles
- February 2001: Incorporation; Board of Directors Forms
- April 2001: Preliminary review of charter application
- June 2001: Charter approved contingent upon legislative relief
- July 2001: Senate Bill 57/House Bill 796 passes

Timeline to Inception (Continued)

- October 2001: Ceremonial Groundbreaking
- January 2002: First structural pilings driven
- April 2002: Staffing begins
- August 2002: Staff In-service Training
- September 2002: First Day of School

Catapults

- Economic study
 - Very strong national, state, and local political support
 - Support of business leaders
- Private-Public Venture Housing Project
- Louisiana Charter School Categories
 - Type 2, Chartered directly by the State
 - Title VIII funding → Outstanding facility

Roadblocks

- Local Education Authority (LEA) concurrence
- "Sheltered" enrollment for the military dependent
- Busing across parish (county) borders
- Compliance with LA statutory requirement of "at risk" students

Roadmap to Charter School for DoD Communities



- Ensure support of local command
- Ascertain community support
- Organize team
- Identify "catapults"
- Identify "roadblocks"
- Delegate responsibilities
- Chart course
- Navigate course

Roadmap to Charters as Solutions...in all communities

- Ascertain community support
- Organize team
- Identify "catapults"
- Identify "roadblocks"
- Delegate responsibilities
- Chart course
- Navigate



Challenges

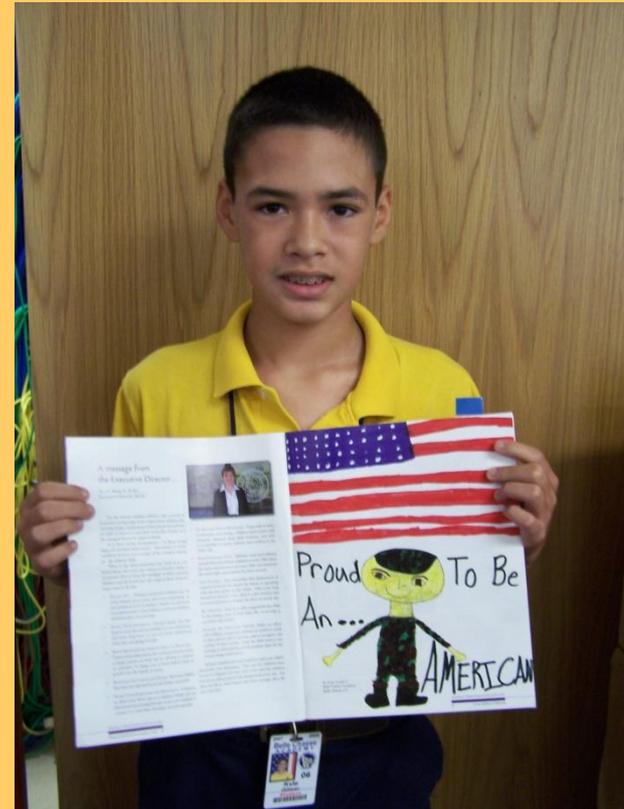
- Mobile population
 - Student achievement
 - Parental commitment
- Coordination with DoD and base command
- Expansion of facility
- Technological "know how" (Maximize Available Technology!)
- Teacher "innovativeness"
- **120 by 2014!**

Our School is Special...

because of....

- **Our mobile population**
 - Students
 - Parents
- Our secure and modern facility on-board NAS
- Our technology rich environment
- Our shared core beliefs
- Our teachers' "innovativeness"
- Our community support

Our School is Special Because of the Military Child!

















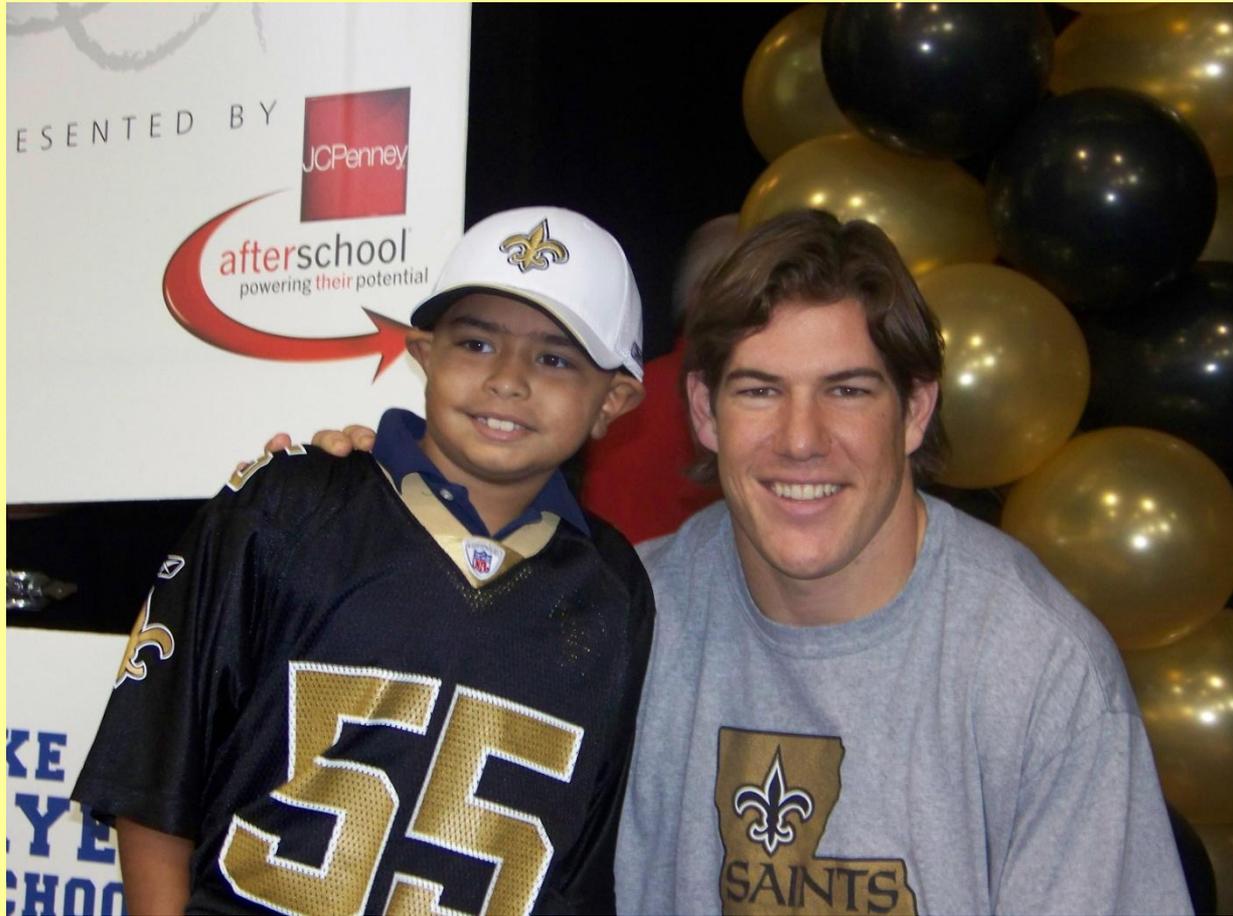






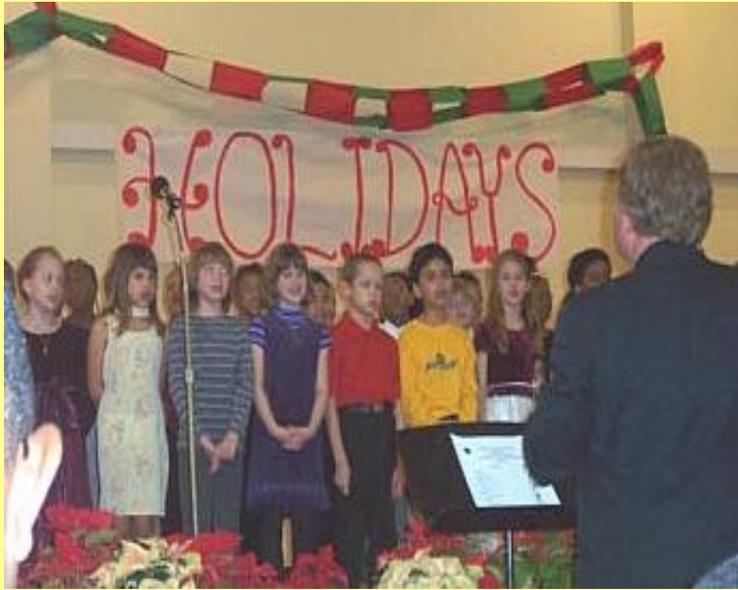








Belle Chasse Academy, Louisiana





Link to School Prospectus

<http://www.bellechasseacademy.org/aboutus.cfm?subpage=1112460>

