

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Quest Academy Charter School of Montclair's application articulates a proposal for a 21<sup>st</sup> century charter high school, to be located in Montclair, NJ, as a model high school for Technology and Creative Arts, offering a dynamic interdisciplinary curriculum, based on the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Areas. Quest Academy Charter School of Montclair will employ the best educational practices, innovations and technological advances to serve the needs of students in Montclair Township. Quest Academy Charter School of Montclair will serve students from 9-12 and will begin with 160 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students, opening in the fall, 2011.

The vision of the Quest Academy Charter School of Montclair reflects our belief that a successful educational experience can only take place when attention is given to the development of the whole child. The mission of Quest Academy Charter School of Montclair is to offer a comprehensive and rigorous secondary academic program that places emphasis on supporting and rewarding each student, and will provide a school environment that encourages academic exploration that celebrates effort in the pursuit of high achievement. The foundation for the school's four cornerstone values are student-centered learning; rigorous academic standards for achievement; cutting-edge teaching tools; collaboration, and service learning. As we prepare our learners for the careers of the future, all students will be expected to become advanced proficient in 21<sup>st</sup> digital technology tools, as well as, how to collaborate in tomorrow's global marketplace. Through the implementation of the core content areas, and offering comprehensive programs fused in visual arts and technology, we seek to engage students to become better global citizens.

The interdisciplinary-based curriculum provides flexibility for students to engage with professional experts in selected content areas, teaching students how to evaluate, apply, and create new knowledge in varying contexts. The goal of the curriculum is to develop a solid foundation in basic skills that prepares students with the skills and knowledge necessary to meet the challenges of a complex, global society. Students will achieve at their own pace through Individual Learning Plans. Differentiated instruction that fuses technology and art into core content areas will encourage students to become self-directed seekers of knowledge. Performance and inquiry-based assessment, combined with, collaborative learning tasks, will require students to articulate their understanding and mastery through diverse methods.

Quest Academy Charter School of Montclair will become a model for high expectations and innovative school structures such as extended days, mid-day extracurricular activities, built-in support, use of digital technology and art and a professional learning program that ensures long-term stability and teacher excellence. We will ensure that curricula objectives are streamlined between grades based on each student's 12th grade graduation goals. Our small-class sizes, comprehensive support services, and transparent decision-making process, allows for flexibility in innovation and curriculum design.

For the first time, the parents of children in the town of Montclair will have a choice in the kind of public secondary education that they expect for their children. Montclair High Schools' tests result show that not everyone does well in a large comprehensive high school. Given that high school is a critical time to build the academic and personal skills that their children will need for post-secondary school and work, the parents of Montclair Township have expressed a desire for more alternatives for their children in public secondary education. They want a choice in programs that will creatively prepare their children in Mathematics, Science, Reading and Writing. Quest Academy Charter School of Montclair is the solution for parents seeking a small, diverse, public secondary school as an alternative to Montclair High School and is a perfect complement to Montclair Public Schools.