



Frequently Asked Questions About Bethel Hill Charter School

1. Who can attend BHCS?

Any child that is domiciled in the state of North Carolina and is eligible to enroll in a North Carolina Public School.

2. Is there a cost to go to BHCS?

No. We are a North Carolina Public School of Choice.

3. When can I enroll my child for kindergarten?

You may enroll during the enrollment period (January & February) of the year that your child will begin school. We do not take applications before the enrollment period begins in January and K students must be 5 on or before Aug. 31st of that year.

4. Who is a priority student?

- A priority student is any student who: (1st Priority) is a child of a faculty or staff member, (2nd Priority) has a sibling that is currently enrolled at BHCS. (3rd Priority) lives in what was considered the Bethel Hill district when the school was a Person County School, or (4th Priority) qualifies for Legacy Priority (Guidelines Below).
- Bethel Hill Charter School Board adopted the following Legacy Preference in February 2014.
- Starting with the 2013-2014 school year through the 2015-2016 school year, siblings of students completing 6th grade at Bethel Hill Charter and were enrolled at least four years will be granted enrollment priority.
- Starting with the 2015-2016 school year, siblings of students completing 5th grade at Bethel Hill Charter School and were in enrolled at least four years will be granted enrollment priority. This is because the 6th grade, which is the highest grade offered, will be eliminated starting with the 2016-17 school year.

5. How is the lottery done?

If there are more student applications than spots available, we will hold a lottery. This lottery is open to anyone who would like to attend. Any student who has completed an application by the application deadline will be entered into the lottery. Members of our board of directors (or their designees) will draw student names to fill the spots we have available. After all spots are filled the remainder of the names will be drawn and placed onto a waiting list in the order in which they are drawn. Each year a child remains on the waiting list there will be a new lottery held in March to create the new waiting list order for the next school year.

6. If my child is placed on a waiting list, how long will their name remain on the waiting list?

Your child's name will be placed on the waiting list in the order it was received until a spot becomes available or you ask for it to be removed. There is no way to determine how long it will take for a space to become available. Spaces become available when a student leaves our school, so there is no way to predict this. **If your contact information changes, you need to call or email us.** If we cannot contact you, then we have to go to the next person on the waiting list.

7. What if one of my children gets accepted and there is no space available for my other child?

Once one of your children is enrolled, their siblings will move to sibling priority status on the waiting list. If you opt not to enroll a child because there is not space for all of your children, then that child will be placed at the bottom of the waiting list.

8. Does BHCS follow the same calendar as Person County Schools?

We try our best to keep it as close to their calendar as possible. However, because we do our report card periods on a six week schedule there are a few days that will differ throughout the year.

9. Does BHCS have a preschool program?

No. Our school covers a grade span of kindergarten through 5th grade.

10. Is transportation provided by BHCS?

Because we have to serve the entire county, we are not able to go door to door. We run the major highways and establish pick up points. Parents help the school a great deal when they transport their own children. Parents may also arrange carpooling when possible.

11. Does BHCS have a before and after school program?

Yes. We operate a before school program from 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. and an after school program from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. The after school program provides a wide range of activities for students. They receive homework assistance and some tutoring.

12. Are the students required to wear uniforms?

No. It is the mission of Bethel Hill Charter School to instill respect for self, respect for others, and high moral values. A person's dress is a way of demonstrating that respect for self and others. It is not the intent of Bethel Hill Charter School to stifle or deny appropriate expression through one's individual dress. However, we do expect children to dress appropriately for school. When questions concerning dress arise the principal determines the appropriateness of dress. Parents may appeal the principal's decision to the Board of Directors.

13. Does BHCS follow the same curriculum as the other Person County Schools?

Yes and No. We teach the North Carolina Standard Course of Study just as all other public schools in North Carolina. In addition to that curriculum, we teach the Core Knowledge curriculum. We also use Go Math and Saxon Phonics programs to teach math and reading and emphasize teaching good character traits.

14. Who runs BHCS?

Our school is governed by our own Board of Directors, who are elected by our parents, faculty and staff. We have nine members serving three year staggered terms.

15. How is this school funded?

We receive state, local and federal funds to operate the school. However, we do not receive capital or lottery money for facility construction and maintenance. Facility construction and improvements are funded through private donations, fundraisers, grants and loans. BHCS is a tuition-free, public school of choice.

16. Is my involvement with the school required?

Yes. As a part of the contractual agreement, parents must volunteer a minimum of one hour per month. Generally a student's school performance improves when their parents become actively involved at school. We need your daily academic support with homework, emphasizing reading and other schoolwork.

17. Does BHCS have a free and reduced lunch program?

Yes. In 2003-2004, we opened our own cafeteria. We used a combination of grant funding, donations and local school money to purchase the necessary equipment to operate a cafeteria. We also began participating in the Federal School Lunch Program. All parents will be given an application for free and reduced meals. After the application has been processed, parents will be notified of their lunch payment status.