

POLICY: CURRICULUM

J PAUL TAYLOR ACADEMY

www.jpaultayloracademy.org

Adoption date: May 11, 2016

J Paul Taylor Academy (JPTA) strives to make learning meaningful and child centered. Its goal is to teach most concepts and skills through project based learning. In project based learning the state mandated standards, Common Core State Standards, are delivered in such a way as to allow students the time to solidify concepts in meaningful ways or to expand their understanding of them through individual and/or collaborative explorations of ideas and themes. This applied process promotes greater skill retention and enjoyment of learning. Testing, short term and long term assessments, guide staff in recognizing student achievement and areas of need, but it is not the main focus of the Academy's curriculum.

JPTA maintains a commitment to Healthy Life Skills, as evidenced by the practice of daily walks, expanded Physical Education instruction, and a food service program that centers on fresh-daily meals with a heavy emphasis on fresh vegetables and fruit, locally produced as often as possible. Music and Art classes are also included as integral and indispensable components of the JPTA school week, and the school takes advantage of visual, musical, and dramatic arts events throughout the community in order to provide a well-rounded educational experience.

JPTA believes learning a second language is critical for success in today's society, and has sought to create an environment that would promote bilingualism and biliteracy in the Spanish language. We teach Spanish under an enrichment language acquisition model.

A critical focus of education is learning how to work with others, and collaborative project-based instruction allows children to have consistent opportunities to experiment with true leadership, negotiation, compromise, and group goals and expectations in preparation for their future careers and social lives. Numerous community partnerships and parent involvement support this effort as we strive to achieve our motto: "Recapturing the Joy of Learning."