



State Charter School Spotlight: Pataula Charter Academy

18637 Hartford St., Edison, GA 39846

Year Open: 2010

Grade Levels Served: PreK-12

The mission of Pataula Charter Academy is to prepare students for life-long success by partnering with families and communities to create a safe, nurturing learning environment that engages and challenges students, fosters creativity, and instills integrity and leadership skills that inspire students to reach their full potential.

What is something your school is especially proud of?

Pataula is especially proud of our long-standing record of meeting or exceeding the standards of a high-quality charter school. We just concluded our 15th year of operations and have met all SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) metrics each and every year. Our proven record helped us make history with the first 10-year charter renewal given by the SCSC.

Are there any specific programs, teaching methods, or partnerships that have contributed to your academic success?

We attribute our academic success, as evidenced by meeting the Academic SCSC CPF indicators, to our rigorous instructional methods and positive school culture. This includes our project-based learning model, cross-curricular instruction, dual-enrollment, multiple pathways and work-based learning.

We also recognize that students can't grow and achieve without a positive school experience. So, we offer opportunities for student, parent, and community engagement, as well as a variety of sports and extracurricular opportunities.



Can you share a memorable moment from student life this year?

Panther Bowl is an annual tradition that high school students have come to love, and younger students look forward to participating in. This is an event where each high school grade level competes in a variety of fun activities like Talent, Quiz, Limbo, Tug-of-War, Dodgeball, and Spirit. It has become a fierce competition that brings classes together to prepare and collaborate and builds bonds that will last a lifetime.



Every school has something that sets it apart. What makes your school unique?

One of the things that makes our school unique is *Crew*: a daily 30-minute block dedicated to relationship-building among students and between students and teachers. It's also a time for developing character and strong work habits. We view *Crew* as just as essential as any academic subject. Visitors often comment on the warm, positive environment at our school, and we believe *Crew* is the foundation of that culture.



Are there any recent community events or initiatives your school is especially proud of?

Community Engagement is important to our school model. In addition to creating and maintaining business and community partners, we believe that our students need to experience what our communities have to offer by having community "experts" support their learning and participating in "field work" within the community. Every grade level also participates in community service projects related to their "Expeditions" – cross-curricular units of study.

What are your school's biggest goals or priorities in the coming years?

The number one thing that we have learned through this 15-year journey that continues to make us successful is that you never stop striving for improvement. We are continuously reflecting and revising systems and processes to help our school continue to grow and thrive. Good is not good enough, we want to be the BEST!



<https://www.pataula.net/>