



Ridge and Valley Charter School

1234 Route 94

Blairstown, NJ 07825

(908) 362-1114

office@ridgeandvalley.org

www.ridgeandvalley.org

RVCS Student Application 2019-2020

Ridge and Valley Charter School - A Different Kind of Public School

Ridge and Valley Charter School is a public, K-8 school of choice providing students an education for a hopeful sustainable future. Our educational program and curriculum honors children as individuals and emphasizes personal excellence, hands-on experiential education, self-directed and outdoor learning, earth literacy, bioregional studies— all within the context of the most recently understood scientific story of our 13.7 billion year-old Universe. A Ridge and Valley education is an experience of emergence, wonder, support and guidance that allows young people to grow into the fullest expression of their interests, passions and joys so they become self-directed, confident, responsible and informed adults. Ridge and Valley Charter School incorporates an integrated, emergent course of study designed to complement children's developmental stages and support their ongoing exploration of themselves and their human and non-human communities, so they can provide leadership that has a clear vision of the world and how to make it better. Our school provides a caring place where children, parents, faculty, staff, trustees and community partners come together to create a nurturing learning community. A Ridge and Valley Charter School experience offers our young people a sense of belonging to the larger whole, an education that meets high standards and offers creative and sustainable ways to participate in our communities and world.

Key aspects of our philosophy and program:

- ❖ Human beings are merely a thread in the miraculous web of life supported by this living universe. We have a profound responsibility to respect and care for the Earth and all human and non-human beings. Hence, the school's primary focus is on ecological literacy and sustainability. Children practice everyday habits of living that reflect sustainable lifestyles, learn how to be citizens of the world and learn to construct lives that promote the long-term health of the planet.

- ❖ Our program is highly integrated, inter-disciplinary and experiential, allowing children to learn by doing, often out-of-doors, and in multi-aged groups. Every student participates in annual overnights and/or multi-day expeditions, and regular experiences in the natural world inspire us all to question, reflect, wonder, and think creatively, as well as understand life in new ways. Through these experiences, students develop critical thinking skills, challenge traditional assumptions about consumer culture and derive new models for honoring the world around them.
- ❖ Using this experiential approach, the school meets the New Jersey Student Learning Standards set by the state Department of Education. Beyond all mandated state tests, learner assessment primarily consist of projects, work portfolios and rubrics, and are articulated through student and guide narratives, rather than traditional letter grades.
- ❖ Each and every child is cherished and respected, and his or her creativity and potential nurtured and supported. Children learn to respect and honor differences, dissolve boundaries and share common goals in real-world settings. Circle and restorative practices are an integral part of our program.

Application Process

Enrollment at Ridge and Valley Charter School is open, on a space-available basis, to all K-8 students residing in N.J. with preference given to students residing in the districts of Blirstown, Hardwick, Knowlton, Frelinghuysen, and North Warren Regional. If more applications are received than there are spaces available, a lottery is held after each monthly application deadline. Once a student has been accepted, the student remains enrolled for subsequent school years. Siblings of enrolled students receive preferential placement in the student enrollment process.

The first application period for the 2019-2020 school year is October 1 through October 31, 2018. Subsequent deadlines occur on the last day of every month thereafter. Once the monthly application period during which the application was submitted closes, you will receive notification by the end of the subsequent month (e.g. if you submit your application during the month of October, you will receive notification by the end of November).

Send completed applications to:

Ridge and Valley Charter School, 1234 State Route 94, Blirstown, NJ 07825

or email to: *office@ridgeandvalley.org*

Student Information

Name _____ Gender _____

Date of Birth _____ (Applicants must be at least 5 years old by September 30, 2019)

Mailing Address _____

Street Address (if different than mailing address) _____

City _____ County _____ ZIP _____

Grade for which student is applying for the 2019-2020 school year: (please check one only)

K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

School District of Residence:

Blairstown, Hardwick, Knowlton, Frelinghuysen, or North Warren Regional

Other: _____

Please list sibling(s) currently enrolled at Ridge and Valley Charter School: _____

How did you learn about Ridge and Valley Charter School? _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Contact Information

1) Parent/Legal Guardian _____ Relationship to student _____

Home # _____ Cell # _____ Work # _____

Email _____

2) Parent/Legal Guardian _____ Relationship to student _____

Home # _____ Cell # _____ Work # _____

Email _____

I have reviewed the RVCS website (www.ridgeandvalley.org) and read the Family Handbook:

Parent Signature _____ Date _____