

# Union County TEAMS Charter School

## High School/College Leadership Academy

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Our alumni currently attend and/or are graduates of these Colleges, Universities, and Trade Schools:

- [HBCU'S](#)
- Howard
- North Carolina A. & T.
- Elizabeth City
- Florida Memorial
- Morgan State
- [NEW JERSEY](#)
- N.J.I.T.
- Rutgers (New Brunswick/Newark)
- Kean
- Montclair State
- College of New Jersey
- New Jersey City
- Felician
- St. Elizabeth
- St. Peters
- [PRIVATE](#)
- Penn State (PA)
- St. Johns (NY)
- Hofstra (NY)
- Hamilton (NY)
- [LOCAL—2 year](#)
- Raritan Valley College
- Middlesex
- County College
- Union County College
- [TR-IDE](#)
- Lincoln Tech
- ... and it continues

Mrs. Sheila L. Thorpe  
Executive Director

Mr. Michael Chiles  
Vice Principal/  
Director Operations

Mrs. Eleanor Worrill  
Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

**Achievements:** As a small learning community, *Union County TEAMS (Technology, Engineering, Architecture, Math, and Science) Charter School* and High School/College Leadership Academy is a **Tier I ranked Charter School** serving grades K – 12. According to the NJ DOE yearly performance report, this ranking highlights schools that have met and/or exceeded standards designed by the state in academics, attendance, graduation rate, and college and career readiness. We are in our **18<sup>th</sup> year**, having **graduated 267** High School seniors who collectively have earned over **2,500 college credits** from both Middlesex County College as participants in our High School/College Bridge Program. The state also recognizes our two- and three-years consecutive graduation rate of **100%** with a **77%** college attendance rate.

**Defining Attributes:** We provide a comprehensive curriculum enhanced by two offsite features: (1) high school physical education program at a local health facility, Ricochet Health Club, and college course offerings at local Middlesex County College. These different settings, **“Beyond These Four Walls”**, enhance our program for advanced college preparation, student development and community building. For the K–8 student, the regular school year program is enriched by Extended Day and Summer Programs for basic skills, STEM enrichment, extra-curricular activities, and educational field trips. Other defining attributes are the emphasis on a 1:1 student technology initiative. Every class is a computer lab with Wi-Fi and individual chrome-books which enhance computer skills through integrated use of technology for daily academics. Staff laptops provide dedicated tools for current teaching trends as discovered on the world-wide web. Additionally, they are the communication vehicle to parents and students, the primary tool for lesson plan development, grading, and the teaching platform for our digital curriculum, ***SavvasRealize.Net***. Our students gain an advantage of improved computer skills while engaging in various academic classes. For grades K–5, a “Hands on” approach is the model for our STEM lessons based upon the yearly theme of the “Built Environment Fair”. All aspects of curriculum are aligned with NJSL (New Jersey Student Learning Standards) with a focus on ELA, math, science and integrated technology to produce students who exhibit the following characteristics:

- ⇒ Read fluently, think critically, and write with understanding,
- ⇒ Interact with subject matter relative to the global environment,
- ⇒ Know how and desire to lead,
- ⇒ Manage and resolve conflict in a responsible way,
- ⇒ Exhibit pride in their community via service learning and volunteerism, and
- ⇒ Work and learn in diverse teams.

**Facility and Enrollment:** The school has two locations in Plainfield, NJ. The K – 8 Program is in a three-story, state of the art church facility of 69,000 square feet of space including a regulation size gymnasium at the Shiloh Baptist Church. The 9 -12 Program is in the school facility of St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church. The school’s five-year charter renewal of 2019 authorized an expansion enrollment from 400 to 500 students. This expansion is to begin in the year 2021-2022 and includes both larger elementary and high school populations. While in those years the expansion was pre-empted by a two year pandemic which swept the country and closed schools and reduced teaching population significantly. This year, begins anew the expansion and recruitment of adequate staffing to resume forward progress towards our goal. Nine surrounding districts including Plainfield provides the current population.

**Personnel:** The school’s organizational design has metamorphosed into an administrative team approach with capacity for a full-time administrator, Director of Curriculum, school counselors, data manager, and administrative assistants currently lead by the Executive Director who is one the founders. This Admin Team serves as the leadership for the school with a LDTC consultant as our Child Study Team Supervisor and a Counseling Specialist supporting counselors in advancing social emotional learning, extended high school programming that ensures graduation of all seniors. With approximately 50 staff members, the school operates under the oversight of a Board of Trustees who supports comprehensive staffing including a business office, administrators, teachers, substitutes, and auxiliary support staff.

While our focus is to take your child from Kindergarten to College in this single school setting, we do not neglect each child’s personal scholars and leaders to greater opportunities through professionals from various trades, the business community, engineers, architects, scientists, inventors, designers, entrepreneurs, and other professionals who impact the growth and development of all of our students in this small learning community. **Senior requirements for graduation include an Exit Interview, a personal portfolio, acceptance to a minimum of two colleges/universities (2/4 year) or trade schools, and certified 100 hours of service learning.** It is in these activities that seniors conclude their preparation for entry into a global society ready to take their places as citizens of the world, but more than that become .... **“Community Builders ... Aiming High and Achieving Greatness.”**