



How is TESS different?

Experiential learning provides students with rich opportunities for intellectual, social, emotional and physical development and to prepare them to be engaged citizens.

TESS centers the students' needs, talents, and interests and encourages them to take ownership over their learning and take action in their communities.

TESS students use their math, language, science, social studies, arts, music, and movement skills together to solve real-world problems during their project-based learning tasks, other hands-on activities, service-learning projects, and internships (for middle school students).

TESS's downtown location and community partnerships let us capitalize on the many resources available in Greensboro and expand the classroom into the world outside of it.

TESS offers frequent opportunities for multi-age grouping and collaboration, which lets all our students take on leadership roles, pursue interests, and use their talents cooperatively across classroom and grade level boundaries.

TESS uses portfolios to measure our students' learning rather than focusing strictly on test performance.

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Educational program

At TESS, all students have the opportunity to learn at a pace with their individual strengths and talents. We believe each child comes to school full of interests, abilities, and knowledge and our job is to engage those assets to inspire learning. TESS students meet their learning goals through a unique curriculum that emphasizes curiosity, experience, community engagement, and creativity.

We integrate our math, science, social studies, reading, and writing curriculum with the arts, community service, and urban farming to create project-based, hands-on learning experiences for students.



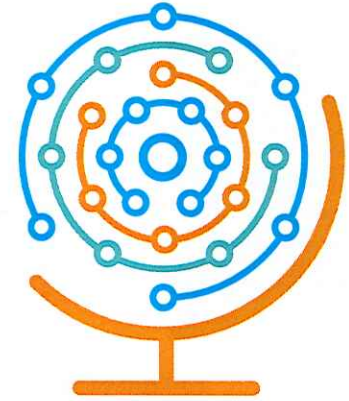
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For additional information contact:
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Elementary and Middle School Families

A New Public School Choice for Greensboro

Opening
Fall 2018



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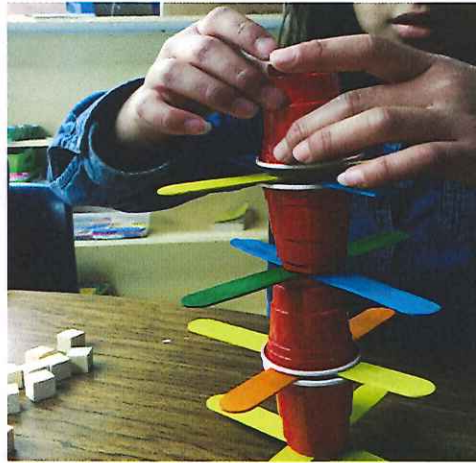




Design of the School

TESG offers multi-age classrooms (which we call houses) for first through eighth graders, with Kindergartners in their own houses. Classroom spaces of the same grade level combination surround a common area used for inter-house activities. Kindergarten houses are capped at 18 students, houses for grades 1-6 are capped at 20, and the seventh, eighth grade houses will be capped at 24 once the middle school houses are fully enrolled in our fifth year of operation.

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Project-based learning

Project-Based Learning (PBL) is used at TESG to guide experiential education at all grade levels. In PBL, collaborative student groups pose and resolve real-world questions/problems by planning, researching, experimenting, reflecting, and producing a product/solution. Teachers balance direct instruction and facilitation during these long-term projects helping students set tasks and learn information and skills needed to complete those tasks. They help students access required resources, expert advisors, and manage project timelines. They ensure learning goals in all subject areas are attended to within the context of projects.



What is experiential learning?

- 1) Learning is inquiry-based.
Teachers activate students' curiosity, interests, and prior knowledge as they work with them to pose problems and design projects to solve those problems.
- 2) Learning is hands-on and active.
Students learn by doing, gaining skills and information through activities that encourage them to experiment, find patterns, and create.
- 3) Learning occurs in context.
Students understand why they are doing the work they do because every activity happens in service of a larger project or real-world goal.
- 4) Learning is creative and cooperative.
Students assume responsibilities within the classroom, alternating leadership roles, playing to one another's strengths, and learning from and with each other.
- 5) Learning occurs in a supportive environment.
Teachers encourage students to experiment, make mistakes, evaluate their errors, and try again.
- 6) Learning is interdisciplinary.
Students rarely tackle subjects in isolation because experiential learning requires many kinds of skills to complete.

