

The Chatfield School is a Michigan Public School Academy chartered by Saginaw Valley State University. Charter schools (known as public school academies in Michigan) are public schools that operate alongside the traditional public school system. Enrollment is open to all students. Students attend the school free of charge, as with other public schools. In addition to following all of the laws and regulations required of all public schools, charter schools are required to meet all of the oversight conditions of their chartering organization.

A five-member School Board of Directors governs the school. Saginaw Valley State University appoints members to the board for three-year terms. The school board is responsible for fulfilling all the laws and regulations of the state and all the conditions of the contract with SVSU.

The current School Co-Directors appointed to the school are Mr. William Kraly and Mr. Matthew Young who have been Directors since 2011.



The Enrollment Process

Chatfield School is a school of choice. No students are required to attend Chatfield, and none are required to stay. Attracting and retaining families is critical to the success of the school. Chatfield has been successful in both respects. More than 95 percent of the families enrolling at Chatfield remain until all their children have completed the Chatfield program. Siblings of enrolled children are given priority for any vacancies that occur.

Parents interested in enrolling their child at The Chatfield School must complete a pre-enrollment form that is used to enter the child’s name into the random draw held each year in April. Annually the draw is used to reorder the waiting list for each grade level. The enrollment process follows the annual draw.

The Chatfield School does not charge tuition and does not discriminate in its pupil admissions policies or practices on the basis of intellectual or athletic ability, measures of achievement or aptitude, status as a handicapped person, or any other basis not permitted by Michigan’s public schools.



- * A K-8 Public School Academy
- * Innovative Instruction
- * Experiential Learning
- * Rigorous Curriculum
- * Unparalleled Staff
- * Environmental Sciences
- * Advanced Technology and Online Instruction
- * Enriching Extended Day Programs
- * Character Education
- * Superior Fine Arts and Athletics
- * Preparing Students to Excel in the Most Advanced and Rigorous High School Curricula

www.chatfieldschool.org



A Cut Above the Rest

Chatfield ranks in the top 20% of all schools in the state of Michigan according to the Department of Education. The school was recognized as a State School of Character in 2010 and as a State School of Excellence in 2011. MEAP scores are at the top levels when compared to schools county and statewide. Eighth grade students exceed the national average in all four subject area tests of the ACT EXPLORE test with students receiving perfect or near perfect scores.

Contact Us

For more information, to register your child for enrollment, or to schedule a tour please contact the school office.

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The Chatfield Mission:

The Chatfield School is dedicated to building a partnership between parents and school staff to assure each child the best educational environment, the best teaching practices and the highest expectations for mastering skills and acquiring the knowledge to be successful in today’s world.

Partners in the Chatfield School believe that children learn best and that all children can be successful in a community of caring, support, and encouragement.

**...not simply teachers teaching high standards,
but students developing a love of learning
and the skills to be successful...**

The Chatfield Curriculum

The Chatfield curriculum is unique because it is anchored in three basic principles:

- * incorporating hands-on and real world learning in all subjects
- * differentiated instruction that allows students to excel in areas of interest and ability
- * ecology studies emphasizing the interrelation of cultures, history, and the need to create a sustainable environment for all people

The Willows Ecology Center and its variety of activities is a key component of the school’s philosophy for learning and for life in the 21st century. The K-8 program includes regular instruction at the Willows Ecology Center with our Ecology instructors.

At the early elementary level, the core of instruction focuses on the fundamentals of Reading, Math, Writing, Science, and Social Studies. As students progress through the curriculum, content becomes definitively more challenging and requires students to develop higher-level thinking skills. At the middle school level, the curriculum is designed to engage and challenge students to develop a global perspective, be active citizens, and be prepared for success in the most rigorous high school curricula.

All curriculum design is focused on meeting students at their individual ability levels and providing the necessary materials and tools to achieve high levels of learning.

Virtual Learning
Students in grades 6-8 have the opportunity to enroll in online classes. These classes, taught by online instructors, are mentored by middle school teachers.

The Chatfield School is proud to offer numerous after school programs that support the development of the whole child. Opportunities include: Bee Club, Chess Club, Dance, Ecology camps, Green Group, Jam Band, Math Olympiad, National Junior Honor Society, Student Council, Scouts and Yoga.

The Fine Arts Program is an important part of Chatfield School curriculum.

Love of Music
K-5 students have general music twice-weekly. Instrumental music (band) instruction begins at 5th grade. At the middle school level students are able to refine their musical skills by focusing on musical theater, choir, music appreciation, band and honors band.

Inspiring Visual Arts
K-5 students attend Art once each week for a 50 to 60 minute period. Middle School students hone their artistic skills with more focused daily art and dance lessons. Four art courses are available to middle school students, including Honors Art.

Relevant World Languages
For students in K-5 we offer Spanish instruction twice weekly. At the Middle School, students are offered numerous choices for foreign language. The highlight of the middle school foreign language program is a three-year German program. Students can also take Spanish, French, and Chinese as online courses. These courses are designed so that students can earn high school credits for the language studies.

Life-long Physical Education and Athletics
Physical Education and athletics are embedded in the Chatfield program. K-5 students have twice weekly gym sessions. At the middle school level students can choose from Physical Education courses, Dance, or a Health and Fitness course.

Interscholastic athletics in soccer, track, volleyball, basketball, flag football, and cheerleading are all offered as part of our Dolphin Sports program. Numerous camps and workshops are offered for students to strengthen their athletic skills. Many Chatfield athletes are prepared to play at superior levels in high school and in travel leagues. Parent involvement in the athletic programs is essential to the success of the program.

Archery Club, Bowling Club, Run Club, Dance, and Physical Fitness round out the intramural activities offered at Chatfield.



The Chatfield School Specifics

The Chatfield School employs an instructional organization that emphasizes assessing and teaching students on an individualized basis.

Children are assigned to an individual homeroom teacher, but equally important is that they are always part of a school within the school—Lower Elementary (Grades K-2 on the first floor); Upper Elementary (Grades 3-5 on the second floor); and Middle School (Grades 6-8 in the middle school wing).

All teachers at Chatfield School are highly qualified with an average of 13 years of teaching experience. Ninety percent of teachers possess a master’s degree in education. The school enjoys a high teacher retention rate.

Teachers and their assistants work as teams and share responsibilities for teaching and supporting children.

Class sizes range from 24 to 27 students; each grade level team has a full time teacher assistant; the overall staff-to- student ratio, which includes all teachers in the building and counselors, is 14 to 1.

Children attend school from 8:20 AM to 3:35 PM; parents are responsible for providing transportation to and from school. Child care is available before and after the regular school day.

Chatfield’s all-day kindergarten program, focuses on academic skills and the development of the whole child, and provides the foundation for the K-8 instructional plan.

A unique middle school program designed to develop students who are independent, global thinkers with high level problem solving skills provides the capstone to the instructional program.

Parents are expected to be partners in their child’s education; teachers regularly conference with parents and parents are expected to be involved in the classrooms and school functions.

Chatfield’s 10-acre site, located between the Lapeer City Nature Preserve and the Mott Community College building, houses both the 50,000 square foot, brick classroom building and the Chatfield Willows Ecology Center—an instructional center as well as a demonstration site for the latest concepts in green building construction including straw bale wall construction.

The K-8 program includes regular instruction at the Willows Ecology Center with our Ecology instructors.

Chatfield participates in the federal lunch program; free or reduced meal prices are available for students who qualify.

The school is conveniently located--approximately 1.5 miles east of the Lake Nepessing Road exit of 1-69 and 1 mile west of Lapeer’s M-24/M-21 intersection.

The Chatfield School has been recognized as a School of Excellence by the Michigan Department of Education and serves as a leader and model for quality in the field of education.

At Chatfield KIDS come first!