



Our Mission

THE ETHICAL COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL (TECCS) is a safe and caring community where *ethics, service, and social justice* are the principles that inform every aspect of school life; where teachers collaborate with and lead students in a culture of rigorous academics and mutual respect; where analytical thinking and creativity are prized over rote learning; where children become individuals of integrity, insight, autonomy—and socially productive citizens, workers, and leaders.

Our School

TECCS OPENED IN SEPTEMBER 2009 after hard work by many in the community. It is a **free public school** with its own charter, reporting to the State of New Jersey. In its first year, the school opened with kindergarten and first grade classes, and each year the school adds a new grade, growing along with our children. Each September, 40 new kindergarten students are welcomed, with our current students moving up to future grades. The school is housed in a school building built in 1954 in the Marion section of Jersey City, near Journal Square. It has a spacious gym, completely outfitted cafeteria, separate rooms for music and art, and colorful classrooms. Each class consists of 20 students and is led by a state licensed teacher. Many classroom assistants work in the school and float between classes supporting teachers and



The Ethical Community Charter School

95 Broadway • Jersey City, NJ 07306
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EDUCATE

EXPLORE



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students. Application to the school is decided by lottery in January with preference going to residents of Jersey City.

Our Curriculum

AT TECCS, STUDENTS ARE VIEWED AS INDIVIDUALS and are expected to be active participants in their education. Teachers use many methods but emphasize an inquiry-based approach, in which **students are encouraged to explore, experiment, and ask questions.** Working in small groups, with excellent student-teacher ratios, students enjoy learning at their own pace while always being encouraged to grow and expand to the next level. There is an explicit emphasis on promoting social development and increasing positive behavior in children. But it is the ethics-based education that sets TECCS apart from other schools. Ethics is infused into every aspect of the curriculum, inviting students to consider carefully what it means to be responsible, thoughtful members of a community.

TECCS FOLLOWS NEW JERSEY STATE CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS. This curriculum is used as a foundation into which ethics education and multiple disciplines are integrated.

CLASSES IN MUSIC, ETHICS, ART, HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, AND WORLD LANGUAGE are taught by special area teachers. Children participate in these classes weekly.

AT TECCS, CHILDREN ARE ENCOURAGED TO UNDERSTAND the important role they play in the larger community. Whether completing a job in their classroom, assisting their friends in the cafeteria, collecting canned goods for a local food drive, or sending letters and supplies to those in need overseas, our students are eager to help others in any way they can. Many of these partnerships and activities are initiated by the children themselves, who present their ideas to their teachers. School leaders foster the creation of

enduring relationships between families, volunteers, and community partners committed to children.

Our Families and Community

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IS VITAL to the success of our school. More than most public schools, TECCS *relies on the participation of each child's family*—not only to build a greater sense of school community, but to offer much-needed resources and support. To that end, the school encourages each family to give at least 30 hours per year to the school. The volunteer opportunities are endless, offering something to suit almost any schedule, interest, or ability.

THE FAMILY AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (FSA) coordinates various volunteer committees, activities, and events in conjunction with the school administration and the Board of Trustees. For a complete list of volunteer activities, please visit www.teccsjc.org/volunteering and click on the "Volunteering Opportunity" link. FSA committees include:

- Class Parents: Establish emergency phone chain; help coordinate all classroom events
- Fundraising: Organizes events and ongoing programs to raise money for school enrichment, such as special programs, assemblies, and field trips. Also provides financial assistance to students unable to afford school-sponsored activities.
- Communications: Coordinates school and outside communication via print publications, email, social media, and press releases.
- Programs & Assemblies: Organizes assemblies and field trips for our children
- Lunch/Recess/Library Coordinator: Schedules volunteers for the daily lunch assistance, library support, and other in-school activities
- Technology: Provides technology recommendations and support for delivering curriculum and communication tools
- Facilities: Supports improvement in school facilities.



ENRICH



Our Principal: Marta Bergamini

MS. BERGAMINI IS DELIGHTED TO BE A PART of the Jersey City educational community, where she finds that the "diverse background of the families and the dedication of parents make the school special." She has hired an *impressive roster of teachers who are "energetic and creative,"* and each of those teachers has "a strong work ethic."

Ms. Bergamini has the depth of experience required to create and maintain excellent progress at the school. She was an administrator and Teacher in Charge at Haworth Public School where her teaching role was in world language education. In 2007, she was awarded the **Governor's Teacher Recognition Award**. In 2008, she was recognized for her work improving the professional development of teachers. Ms. Bergamini holds a master's degree in Educational Leadership.

Ms. Bergamini believes that the success of all students at TECCS is due to:

- Establishing an atmosphere of fairness and honesty, where acting in an ethical manner is the norm.
- Creating an environment where an inquisitive mind is encouraged and the natural ability of students is recognized and fostered.
- Offering the latest in instructional programs that will contribute to student and staff growth.
- Cultivating an atmosphere of collaboration with all of the parents and the community.

From the Chair of the Board of Trustees

WHAT WE SAY, DECIDE, AND DO, shows what we have learned from the ethical situation and models it for others. The 5-year-old shares crayon and paper, learns to sit still during story time, takes turns in helping out in the classroom, and already understands what it means to be fair or unfair. The first grader finds himself or herself in an expanding community with new relationships and opportunities to master. And so it goes throughout their lives and ours. Because we know how necessary, and often puzzling, doing the right thing can be, we are committed to helping our children and each other become morally reflective, knowledgeable, and skilled in dealing with each ethical situation. Classroom ethics instruction, community service, and a respectful learning environment are as much a theme of our mission as are basic skills and the arts and sciences. At TECCS, families, teachers, staff, and board are drawn together in this inclusive commitment: to build an ethical community, to model it for others, and to help our students as they grow to become better persons and effective citizens.

—Howard B. Radest, Chair, Board of Trustees, TECCS

Admissions

APPLICATIONS FOR ENROLLMENT must be received by January 10 to enter the school's publicly held lottery for the following September.

Based on the lottery results, applicants are either accepted or placed on the waiting list. Waitlisted families are notified throughout the year as seats in the appropriate grade become available. The school must fill its spots with Jersey City applicants before it can accept any out-of-town applicants. Additionally, in an effort to keep family members together, siblings are given preference in the lottery—no other preference is given to any student in the enrollment process for any reason.

To apply, please download the application form from the school's website (www.teccsjc.org) and return it by fax, email, or postal mail before the January deadline:

The Ethical Community Charter School
95 Broadway
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Phone: 201-984-4151
Fax: 201-200-9931

Please note: Kindergarten students must be 5 years old on or before October 1 of their kindergarten year.