

# Charter Day School



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Parents' Powwow Planned for New Public School**

The new, tuition-free, state-funded public charter school, Charter Day School, will hold its second open parents' meeting this coming Saturday, March 4 at 3 P.M. at the Hood Creek Community Building on Highway 87 South (Maco Road) at Highway 74-76 next to its campus in northern Brunswick County.

Charter Day School begin operation in August 2000 and is accepting students in grades K-1 and plans to add a grade each year thereafter.

"Charter Day School will serve students in Columbus, Brunswick, and New Hanover Counties," states Mr. Baker Mitchell, chairman of the seven-person board of trustees. "The school is publicly funded and is tuition-free. Enrollment is open to all students, under provisions of statutes governing the state's charter schools," he added.

"A number of students have already enrolled just in the three weeks since we announced the school," stated Mr. Mitchell, "and so we are setting up several committees of parents to help the Board with school policies and to make a number of operational decisions." Mr. Mitchell said he was very pleased with the positive responses received by those who had familiarized themselves with the school's program. "However, many parents still do not realize that charter schools are tuition-free; and they are reluctant to investigate. We are trying hard to heighten awareness of the fact that we are free-of-charge, state funded, and open to all students," he added.

Board Trustee Mr. Charles Connell emphasized that Charter Day School and The Roger Bacon Academy will stress a disciplined, caring classroom environment in operating the school. Mr. Connell, who was the superintendent of a 12,000 student school district before moving to the Cape Fear area, said that traditional values and direct instructional methods to meet the educational needs of each child will be major factors in

the educational program. Curriculum offerings will parallel, but will not be restricted to, the North Carolina Standard Course of Studies. Extensive use of computer technology for assisting the teachers in record keeping and multi-media presentations for the students is planned. A school uniform will be adopted for all students. Student guidance-counseling and parental involvement in school activities also will be emphasized.

Saturday's meeting will also feature a tour of the beautiful wooded campus where site clearing has already begun. "The school's classroom buildings will be placed around a large central courtyard where the flagpole will be located," Mr. Mitchell said. "Each day will begin with the students standing to watch the flag as it is raised to our National Anthem, and they will then say the Pledge Allegiance," he adds.

Anyone interested in attending the school is invited to attend this Saturday's meeting, or they may visit the web site at [www.RogerBacon.net](http://www.RogerBacon.net) for more information and to be placed on the mailing list. Or interested parties may call Charter Day School at 796-1214 to receive more information.

Charter schools were initiated in North Carolina in 1997, following approval by the state legislature. At present, there are 97 such schools throughout the state. Classified as public schools and operating on state funds, they may be chartered by the SBE, a local board of education, or by a unit of the State University system. They are governed by statute and SBE regulations, but are allowed considerable flexibility in matters of curriculum, operations, and governance. They must administer end-of-grade and end-of-course tests under the State ABC Accountability Plan. They are considered an adjunct to the local educational authority, and offer to parents and students an alternative educational program, as authorized by the state. They must be non-discriminatory in their admissions policies.