



# Core Knowledge® Charter School

Where Traditional and Contemporary Education Meet



## VISION

Core Knowledge® Charter School is a valued asset, community partner, and highly regarded choice that motivates, challenges and educates all students from a wide variety of incomes, cultures and abilities.

## MISSION

Core Knowledge® Charter School is a public education option for parents, students and teachers in the Verona Area School District where students develop strong learning skills and a broad base of knowledge through the use of proven educational material and programs in a safe and structured environment.

## HISTORY

- Started by parents and educators in 1996 in order to implement Direct Instruction and Core Knowledge® curricula.
- Parent led in operations
- Strong teacher-parent relationship
- Strong parent involvement and support by parents in the classrooms

## WHY A VERONA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL?

- Held to a high standard of accountability by the district, state and parents who choose it.
- Charter contract originally approved in 1996, is revised and renewed every 5 years. The current contract renewed in 2015.

## WHAT IS CORE KNOWLEDGE®?

- The Core Knowledge® Curriculum is a cohesive, sequential knowledge base of:
  - History
  - Geography
  - Science Arts
  - Literature
  - Art
  - Computer Skills
  - Music
  - Math
  - Language Arts
- The well sequenced and structured curriculum creates literate students prepared for a lifetime of learning. (1987, E.D. Hirsch Culture Literacy)

## WHAT IS DIRECT INSTRUCTION?

- In K-5, Direct Instruction is the primary method of teaching reading, spelling, language arts and math
- Teacher-modeled, student-mastered skills and strategies build competence and confidence as students advance
- A high level of student involvement and mastery at each step is built into the learning process
  - Proven effective for all levels and types of learners.



**WE BELIEVE** in flexible instructional groups and well-trained teachers.

**WE BELIEVE** in high energy, focused classrooms where children practice skills until mastered.

**WE BELIEVE** in proven research based teaching methods and materials.

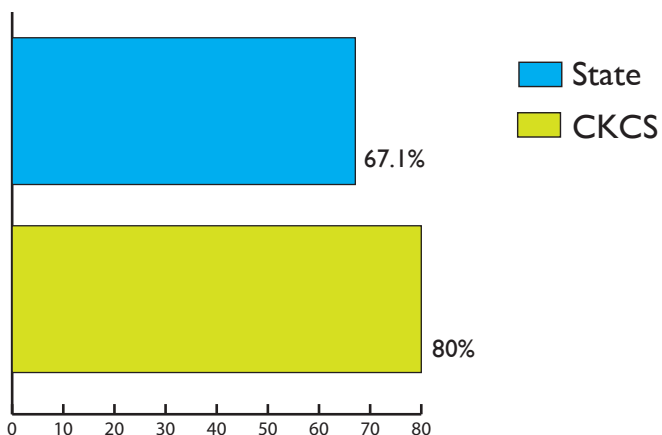
**WE BELIEVE** in our academically challenging curricula.

**WE BELIEVE** in serving families of all incomes, cultures and abilities as the district's only K-8 program.

**WE BELIEVE** students' academic success improves when parents engage in the education of their children and in the operations of CKCS.

## ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Since 1996, students have consistently demonstrated strong levels of proficiency in reading, science and social studies. (WKCE/Forward Exam 1996 – Present)
- Parents report high level of satisfaction with the K-8 program and note positive social and academic transition to middle school where CKCS students share related arts classes through an established partnership with Badger Ridge Middle School. (Parent Satisfaction Survey 2004-2016)
- 2014 DPI Report Card  
– See graph for On-track and Post Secondary Readiness



## HOW TO PARTNER WITH CKCS

1. Service Learning and Junior Achievement
2. Volunteer at CKCS through our PRT
3. Endowment donations supporting continued innovative programming

Contact CKCS for more information  
on partnering (608) 845-4130

## ORGANIZATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- "CKCS is the longest lasting and most successful Direct Instruction implementation in the state."  
– 2015 National Institute for Direct Instruction (NIFDI)
- CKCS enrolls a diverse student body and serves a demographic similar to the other district schools. Serving nearly 250 families and 400+ students.
- The Core Virtues Program (1996) and the Service Learning Program implemented in (2011) develop civic responsibility and strengthen community connections. (Both complement Daggett's Rigor & Relevance Framework, quadrant D.)
- Junior Achievement Partnership since 2010
- District demand for the program remains strong with long waiting lists at Kindergarten and 6th grade. (CKCS Annual Report & 2014-15 District Enrollment Request Memo)
- High teacher retention and levels of satisfaction year after year. (Teacher Survey 2013-Present)
- Our Parent Round Table (PRT) raised \$20,000+ to purchase new science textbooks and support materials for grades 3-8.(2015-2016)
- Leadership raised \$21,000+ for an endowment fund through Madison Community Foundation.(2016)

## LEADERSHIP

**Director** - Rick Kisting **Curriculum** - Tamara Gunwall

**PRT** - Parent Round Table **GC** - Governing Council

**PASS** - Parents Advocating Student Success



<http://ckcs.verona.k12.wi.us>

