Mission Statement

At Stephen Foster, we challenge students to become all they can be - Accepting responsibility for their choices and feeling pride in their accomplishments. We provide a caring, learning environment, encouraging a partnership of mutual respect within the Foster community.

General Information

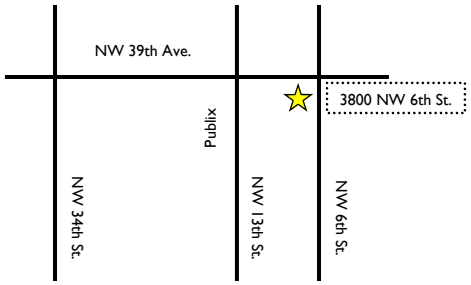
At Stephen Foster we believe that **all** children are capable of high levels of learning and achievement. Using the *Correlates of Effective Schools** as our guide, we provide a unique learning environment designed to meet the needs of the individual child.

The *Correlates of Effective Schools** grew out of the *Effective Schools* research and focus on seven areas related to school improvement and student achievement.

Correlates of Effective Schools

1. Safe and Orderly Environment
2. Climate of High Expectations for Success
3. Instructional Leadership
4. Clear & Focused Mission
5. Opportunity to Learn and Student Time on Task
6. Frequent Monitoring of Student Progress
7. Home-School Relations

*Lezotte and Edmonds



An elementary magnet program of the

Alachua County Public Schools

Academy of Math, Science, and Technology

Stephen Foster Elementary School
3800 NW 6th St.
Gainesville, Fl. 32609

(352) 955-6706
Fax: (352) 955-6746

Dr. Darla Boyd
Principal

On the web at:
www.sbac.edu/~foster/Academy.htm

Academy of Math, Science, and Technology

at
Stephen Foster Elementary School

Gainesville, Florida

www.sbac.edu/~foster/Academy.htm

Program Description

The Academy of Math, Science, and Technology at Stephen Foster Elementary offers a comprehensive, hands-on curriculum that integrates math, science, and technology in a real-world context.

Individually, and in teams, students participate in thematic units of study that emphasize higher-order thinking, problem-solving, and data analysis. Units of study focus on science and math explorations while using technology as a tool for analysis and presentation of findings.

Numerous field trips (NASA, Museum of Science and Industry, Museum of Natural History, etc) are scheduled which connect the curriculum to the "real world."

Above-level instruction in reading and math is provided for those students who show mastery of grade-level material. Placement tests are given to ensure proper placement and instruction.

Selection Criteria

- Initial selection is based on *Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT)* and/or *Stanford 10* scores.
- *FCAT* and/or *Stanford 10* scores, academic placement tests, behavior, and attendance are all considered for final selection.
- Students must be on or above grade level, based on our academic placement tests, to be eligible for final selection.
- Patterns of non-attendance and/or inappropriate behavior can negatively affect a student's chances of selection.

Mathematics

- Harcourt basal series used for core mathematics instruction
- Students taught at **instructional** level (Above-level instruction possible)
- Integrated with science and technology for real-world application of knowledge and problem-solving skills

Science

- Fulltime Science Teacher
  - Coordinates science curriculum and science fair
  - Teaches units of study using hands-on activities and resources that tie curriculum to the real world
  - Assists teachers with project and lesson development
- Science lab equipped with six computers
- Standard and digital microscopes
- Thematic, integrated units of study (e.g. *Journey North, FOSS, Science and Technology for Children*)
- Units of study based on Sunshine State Standards
- Field trips tied to curriculum (e.g. *NASA, Museum of Science and Industry, Florida Museum of Natural History*, etc.)

Technology

- Half-time Technology Teacher
- School-wide network provides Internet and computer lab access in all classrooms
- Mobile laptop cart with 20 wireless laptops
- Minimum of 2 desktop computers per classroom
- 30 station computer lab
- Software available includes: Microsoft Office, Microsoft FrontPage, Kidspiration, Accelerated Reader, Kid Pix Deluxe, Ultimate Writing and Creativity Center, and others
- SMART Boards™ in every classroom and the science lab

Frequently Asked Questions

Where are we located?

- Stephen Foster is located at the intersection of NW 6th St. and NW 39th Ave.

Will transportation be provided?

- Transportation will be provided to any student who lives more than 2 miles from the school.

Is after-school care available?

- Yes. Call the Extended Day Enrichment Office at 955-7766 for information.

What are the anticipated class sizes?

- Grade 3 - 18 students per class.
- Grades 4 and 5 - 22 students per class

What is Stephen Foster's school grade?

- A - Thanks to the hard work of our students, staff, and parents, Stephen Foster has been an "A" school for five consecutive years.

Is there an application process for students not attending Alachua County public schools?

- An application process has been developed for those students who are home-schooled, from charter or private schools, or have recently moved from another county or state. Please call or visit the school for more information.

Are there any costs associated with attending the magnet?

- There are no costs above those normally expected of parents (Paper, pencil, binders, occasional field trip fees, etc.)

Is there a program for siblings of magnet students?

- Siblings may apply to attend the Academy of Traditional Studies (K-5) at our school. At the end of 2nd grade, siblings may be invited to apply to the magnet if they meet initial selection criteria.

Is this a "Gifted-only" magnet?

- No. This magnet is for high-achieving students who are drawn to the sciences. Any student meeting entry criteria is eligible for this program.

School Highlights

- State grade of A
- Over 50% of staff hold advanced degrees
- Five National Board Certified Teachers and one National Certified School Counselor
- Clubs: Chess, Jogging, Art, Storytelling
- Intramural Sports (Grades 4 and 5)
- Regular celebration of student success and achievement during monthly flag ceremonies and our annual Foster Frolics and Spring Arts Festival