



The Museum School

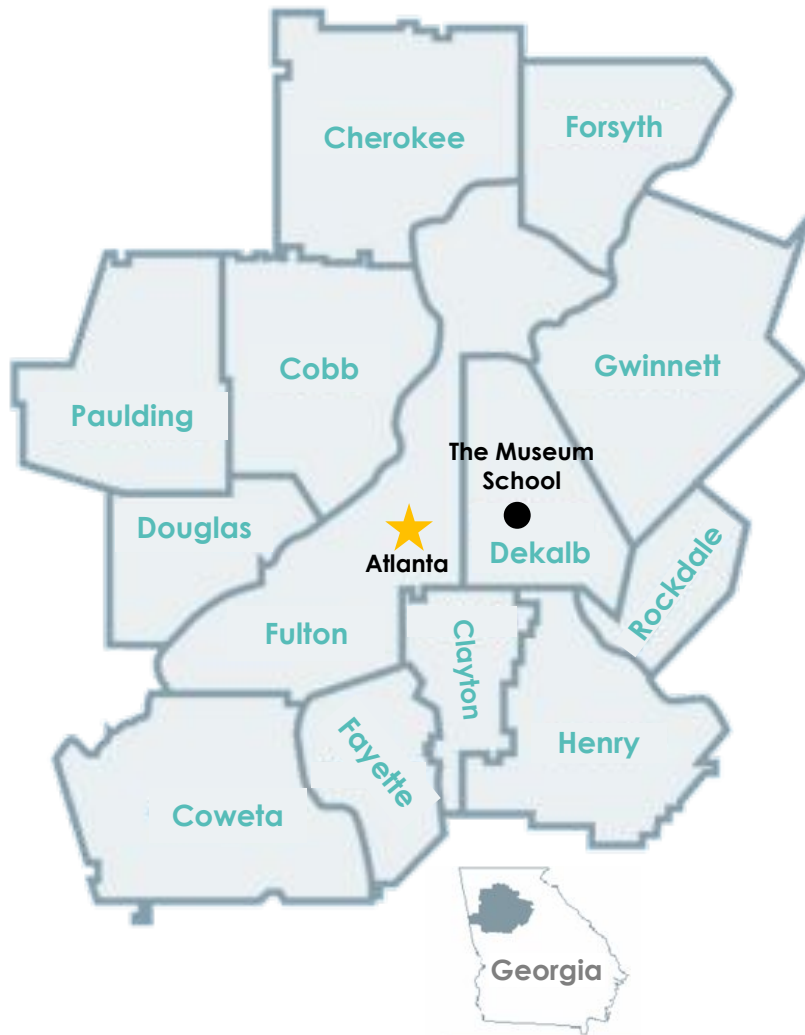
of Avondale Estates

Prospective Parent Open House
2022-2023

Who We Are



The Museum School of Avondale Estates is a K-8 public charter school in DeKalb County



Quick Facts

- Opened in **2010**
- Serves **588** students in grades **K-8**
- Implements **Museum Model** for all students
- Limits class size to **20** students in K-3
- Limits class size to **22** students in grades 4-5
- Limits class size to **24** students in grades 6-8



Everything we do as a school community is grounded in our mission and core values

Our Mission

The mission of The Museum School of Avondale Estates is to inspire students, teachers and the community to collaborate to develop strong critical thinking, interpersonal and academic skills in our students, which will prepare them for real-world success.

Our Values

- Responsibility
- Respect
- Sustainability
- Cooperation
- Creativity
- Kindness



Our core values are translated into Explorer Expectations that are taught, modeled, and celebrated in our school

The following “I will” statements are reviewed and demonstrated by each teacher throughout the school year

Responsibility

- I will make good choices
- I will follow directions the first time
- I will come to school ready to learn
- I will use, clean up, and put away materials safely and properly

Cooperation

- I will wait patiently for my turn
- I will work quietly so we can all learn
- I will work well in a group using kind words
- I will show self-control with my body and words

Creativity

- I will be a problem solver by exploring and using new solutions
- I will participate in class by sharing my ideas
- I will be a risk taker by trying new ideas
- I will challenge myself to think in new ways

Respect

- I will use kind words
- I will use good manners and a polite voice
- I will listen to others when they are talking
- I will listen to and learn from all adults

Sustainability

- I will RETHINK by using our materials wisely (reduce, reuse, recycle)
- I will look for examples of sustainability in my community
- I will be a model for others and teach them to care for our environment

Kindness

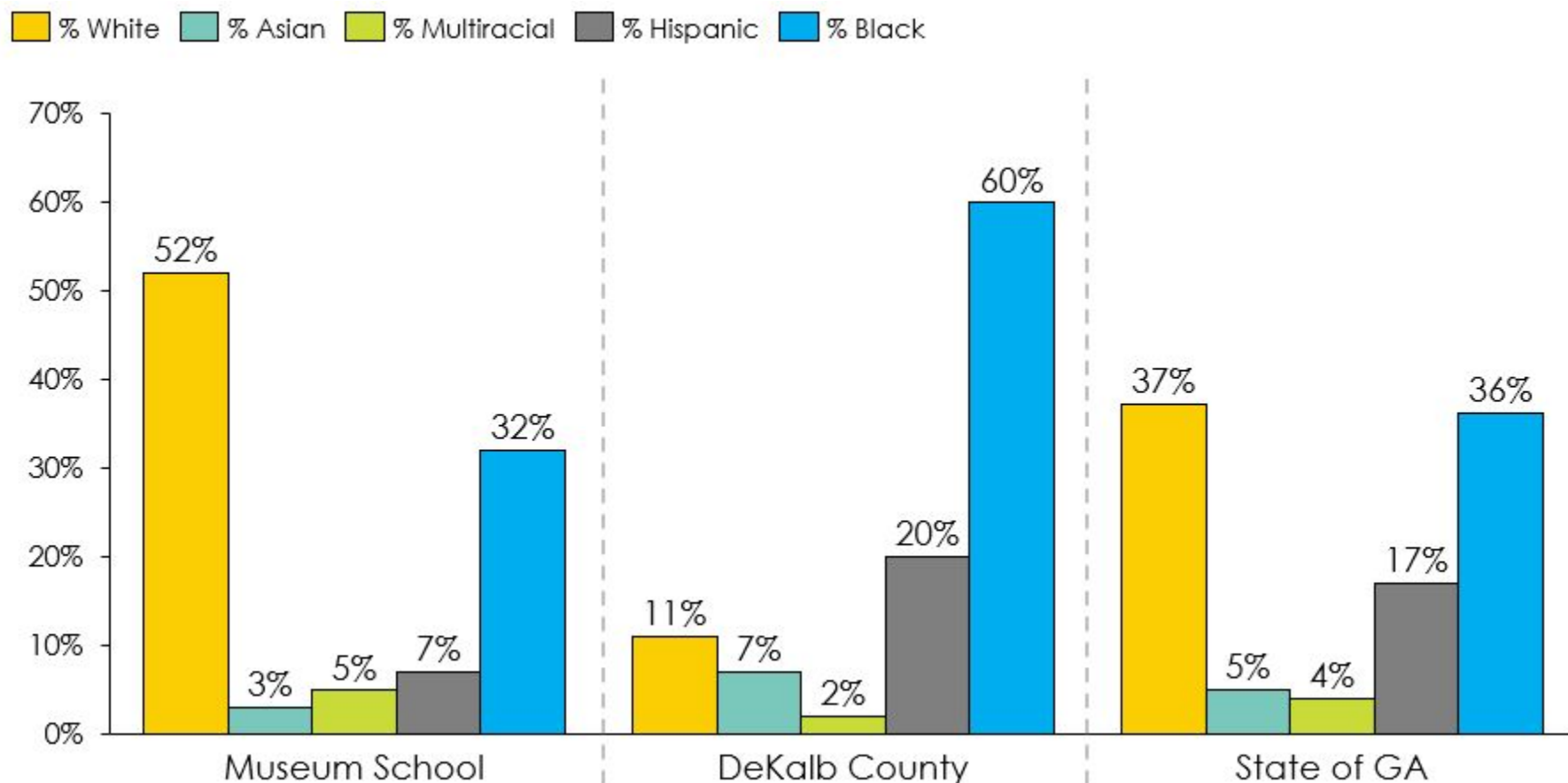
- I will show others I care through my words and actions
- I will reach out to others and help them
- I will show compassion to others
- I will treat others the way they want to be treated



We serve a diverse student body

Student Ethnic/ Racial Distribution

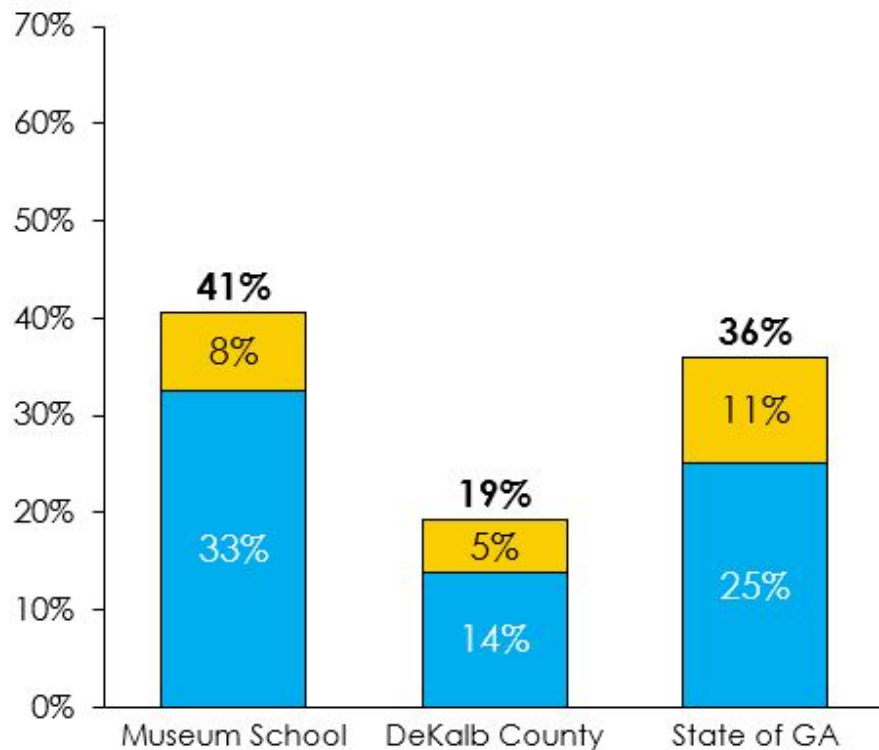
SY2021



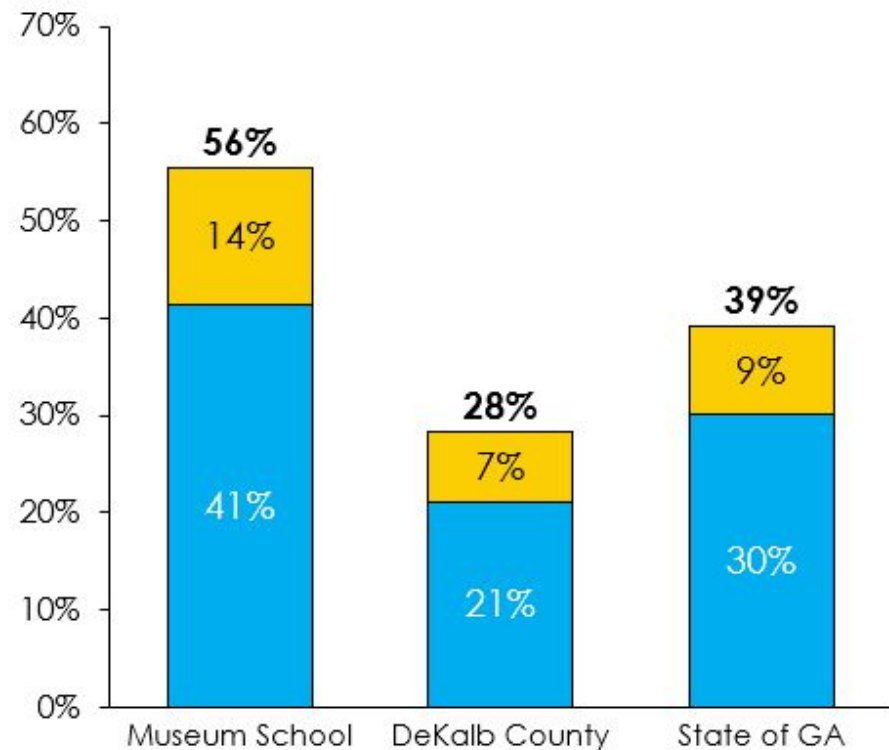
Our students consistently outperform the district and state on end of year assessments

Students at or above proficiency on Math EOG
SY2021

Proficient Learners Distinguished Learners



Students at or above proficiency on ELA EOG
SY2021



We are proud of our accomplishments as a school community

- **2019 - Charter School of the Year Award**
- **2019 - Executive Director one of five nominees for the Narvie J. Harris Education Award**
- **2018 - Top K-8 charter school in Georgia**
- **2018 - Charter School Leader of the Year Award**
- **2016 - Distinguished Breakout Middle School Award**
- **2016 - Governor's Award for the Arts and Humanities**
- **2015 - Excellence in Education Principal Award**
- **2015 - Excellence in Education Teacher Award**
- **2012 - Georgia Association of Museum and Galleries Education Award**
- **2011 - Social Studies Program of Excellence Award**



By the time our students leave the Museum School in 8th grade, they will be...

Critical Thinkers



Curious Explorers



Collaborative Contributors



Caring Community Members



How We Got There



We have identified four core elements of our school model that drive our student outcomes

1

Museum Learning

We implement an inquiry-driven, **hands-on** model that includes regular **learning expeditions**, reflection-based **travel journals**, and the exhibition of **student projects** at quarterly **Exhibit Nights**. We cultivate strategic **partnerships** within our community that meaningfully contribute to the success of our students and staff. Students complete **service learning** projects based on community needs.

2

Rigorous Instruction

We promise a high-quality education with measurable results. We use the **workshop model** to ensure **differentiated instruction** and engaging learning opportunities. We provide **feedback** through formative assessments, checks for understanding, and authentic evaluations of student progress. We engage students in their learning through strategic **arts-integration**.

3

Intentional Climate

We support students and staff in a **safe**, collaborative, welcoming environment, guided by our **core values**. We use **restorative practices** and **culturally responsive** teaching in our school, and we proactively solicit feedback to **continuously improve**. We implement **Responsive Classroom** techniques to foster community.

4

Operating Principles

We prioritize students' learning experiences through strategic **financial planning**. We provide differentiated **professional learning** opportunities for all staff. We incorporate norms and protocols to facilitate **distributed leadership** and **collaboration**. We attract and retain high-quality staff.



Parental Involvement

- Parents are expected to volunteer a minimum number of hours per school year, 15 hours per child, with a maximum of 30 hours.
- Some flexibility will be offered in fulfillment of hours.
- Parents are encouraged to become active members of our school family.

Parents complete the Parent Agreement prior to enrollment.

Parents may volunteer by offering classroom assistance, chaperoning learning expeditions, working on specific school-wide projects, or getting involved in any number of ways.



Curricular Partners

Curricular: works with the teachers and Principal to develop curriculum; students likely will visit these partners often and during several thematic units

Resource: works with Principal to develop teacher-education, donate supplies or materials, provide guest speakers, and host field trips

Community: will be available for students to visit occasionally

Criteria for Curricular Partners:

- Long-term financial viability
- Effective organizational structure
- Leadership and established educational department

Current Partners:

- The Alliance Theatre
- ArtsNOW
- Atlanta Botanical Garden
- Atlanta History Center
- Fernbank Museum of Natural History
- Georgia Aquarium
- High Museum
- Michael C. Carlos Museum
- Zoo Atlanta



Staff Recruitment

- Attracting and retaining a high-quality staff is crucial to the school's success.
- Full-time instructional candidates participate in a 3 round interview process, including a performance-based demonstration.
- Portfolios and student work samples documenting differentiated instruction and increased student achievement are reviewed.

Where are they from?

- TMS Website
- GCSA Job Fair
- Teachers of Color Job Fair
- Teach Georgia
- UGA In-service
- GA State In-service
- College Job Boards
- Educator Open Houses



Admissions



Admissions & Lottery

- K-8 students residing in the DeKalb County School District are eligible for attendance
- Interested families must complete an enrollment application account in Lotterease, which can be found on the TMS website
- Enrollment application period is January 2 - February 10
- If the number of applications received exceeds the capacity of the school, grade level, or class a lottery will be conducted
- The school expects 60 kindergarten spots, 6 fourth grade spots, and 6 sixth grade spots
- Preferences are given for siblings of current TMS students and children of TMS staff and board members
- A weight is provided for economically disadvantaged applications



Other Topics

- After Care Program
- Lunch Program
- Uniform Policy
- Recess
- Exploratory/Connections Classes
- School Hours and Calendar





Additional Questions?

**Thanks for your support of
The Museum School!**

Contact Information:

Mike Stewart

mike.stewart@themuseumschool.org