



## *A Free Public Charter School*

### **Background: What is Blackstone Academy?**

Blackstone Academy is a public charter high school that opened in 2002. The school was developed to give students from Pawtucket and Central Falls a small public school option that features a personalized learning environment and a college preparatory curriculum for all students. Blackstone students are encouraged to be active learners and leaders in their communities. Students are taught by certified teachers in an environment that emphasizes hands-on, interdisciplinary learning and the integration of arts, service learning, and technology. The program is enhanced by partnerships with institutions like Rhode Island School of Design, The Rhode Island Philharmonic/The Music School, Brown University, The Rhode Island Children's Crusade, The SPIRIT Educational Program, The Blackstone Valley Watershed Council, and Mixed Magic Theater.

### **The School and Enrollment: Who attends?**

Blackstone Academy is open to students from Pawtucket and Central Falls. We serve 154 students grades 9-12. We expect some openings in grades 9-11 in September, 2008. The student enrollment and student-teacher ratio are kept low at BACS, thus ensuring that each student is given personalized attention. Our student population reflects the diverse characteristics of the school populations in Pawtucket and Central Falls.

### **The Curriculum and School Design: How are they different? How are they the same?**

Students take classes in the core areas of English, Social Studies, Math, Science, World Languages, Health, and the Arts. They will learn these subjects in many interesting ways including individual and group projects.

Electives include guitar, keyboard, percussion, Latin percussion, digital imaging, music production, poetry, video production, and studio art to name a few.

The theme of Blackstone Academy is "Community Involvement and Improvement" and students take part in helping to solve problems locally. For instance, students may find themselves working with local officials to increase recreational space in the community, apprenticing with artists, or starting their own businesses. Internships and Community Improvement Projects have included work with local childcare centers, schools, government agencies, hospitals, and businesses.

In alignment with mandates from the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) our Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements ensure that our graduates are prepared for the real world and higher education. In order to graduate from Blackstone, all students must take the required courses expected by competitive colleges. In addition to developing a mastery of reading, writing, and mathematics, students develop social, technical, and artistic skills and abilities much needed in today's communities and creative workplaces. Among these skills and abilities are public speaking, artistic expression, and computer proficiency. To advance through our program, students have to complete and present portfolios for each of our four Levels. The portfolios show student growth through the years in areas such as self-awareness, expression, group cooperation and personal reflection. The portfolios are an additional graduation requirement for our students.

### **Where is the school located?**

The school is located at 334 Pleasant Street in Pawtucket. It is within walking distance from downtown Pawtucket and five to ten minutes from most parts of Central Falls. It is down the hill from the bus stop on East Avenue near the Citizens Bank/CVS Oak Hill Plaza. Central Falls students are provided with transportation via school bus.

### **What else do I need to know?**

Students, parents, and staff participate in the Student Government and the School Council thereby influencing all aspects of school life. Blackstone Academy is an independent private non-profit agency and we report directly to the State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Students take the same standardized tests as in other Rhode Island public Schools and have to meet the same standards required of students in other public schools.

Students participate in daily "advisories" where they will get to know the same teacher and a group of students well. Most classes have less than 20 students.

### **How do I apply? Who gets selected?**

If you are a student who likes personalized attention, small classes, and exciting, meaningful class projects, Blackstone Academy may be the right school for you! Students who are currently in the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, or 10<sup>th</sup> grade and live in Pawtucket or Central Falls can apply. Applications need to be completed and returned by March 28, 2008. If the number of applications we receive is greater than available spots, students will be selected in a publicly-held lottery. Our lottery will be held on April 2, 2008. Students will be notified of their acceptance by April 10, 2008. Completed applications can be turned in to your school guidance office or sent directly to: Blackstone Academy, 334 Pleasant Street Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860. Questions can be directed to Carolyn Sheehan, Director at (401) 726-1750 x102 or Natasha Ramirez x101.

### ***What is a Charter School?***

Charter Schools are publicly funded schools of choice. Independent charter schools like Blackstone are not run by the local school district, but are run by a private non-profit agency. Charter schools are accountable to the same federal and state regulations as other public schools, but are free to be more flexible with their program. A charter school can be closed if they are not accountable or living up to their mission.

# Blackstone Academy Charter School

334 Pleasant Street Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860  
(401) 726-1750 Fax (401) 726-1753 www.blackstoneacademy.org

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## Application for Admission Lottery 2008-2009

### Student Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade applying for: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Sex:  Male  Female  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Month Day Year City State Country

Home Language:  English  Portuguese  Spanish  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Race or Ethnic Group (Check only one):

- American Indian/Alaskan Native  Asian/Pacific Islander  African American  
 Hispanic  White

Are you a member of the Rhode Island Children's Crusade?  Yes  No

School your child has attended (list current school first):

_____	_____
School	Location
_____	_____
School	Location
_____	_____
School	Location

### Parent/Guardian Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle Place of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell/Pager : \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Language: \_\_\_\_\_

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### School Use Only

Date received: \_\_\_\_\_ Adm. Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

### Parent/Guardian Information (continued):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

