



A public charter school at the heart of the town puts world-class K-6 education within walking distance for our earliest settlers.

Babcock Neighborhood School (BNS) is a free public charter school open to all students in kindergarten through grade six who qualify to attend a public school in Charlotte County. This includes out-of-district students who are allowed to request admission under Florida's new open enrollment law.

- There are no other public schools within ten miles of the Babcock Ranch town center.
- The Master Plan provides for multiple neighborhood schools and a central middle and high school campus. Those schools will be added as the population of the new town grows.
- A new school building is currently under construction and will be open for K-7 for the 2018/2019 school year.

Vision

Provide a world-class education in an inspiring and healthy environment, supported by strong public/private partnerships and community involvement that promotes the highest level of academic achievement, creativity, collaboration, and environmental literacy.

Curriculum

BNS offers a "place-based" environmentally focused "Green STEAM" educational program that integrates science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics within a thoughtfully provided holistic learning environment. STEAM requires intentional connections among and between standards, assessments, and lesson design and implementation and integrates related standards across disciplines, allowing students to demonstrate mastery of subjects.

By focusing on local landscape, history, culture and context, learning takes on specificity and moves from the abstract to the concrete, engaging students with their surroundings. BNS fosters physical, mental and emotional growth by providing students with an environment that encourages interactions with and exploration of the world around them.

The sustainability and conservation principles embraced by Babcock Ranch provide opportunities for hands-on, project based learning about nature, health and renewable energy with a STEAM focus.

Application Period Currently Open

Applications are open for the 2018-2019 school year.

Families wishing to receive notification when the online applications are available can register for electronic updates at babcockneighborhoodschool.org

Charter Schools in Florida

Charter schools are tuition-free public schools created through an agreement or "charter" typically between the school and the local district school board. This agreement gives the charter school a measure of expanded freedom relative to traditional public schools in return for a commitment to higher standards of accountability. Since 1996, Florida charter schools have played a key role in increasing parental options in public education and providing innovative learning opportunities for students.

In early 2015 Kitson & Partners engaged Collaborative Educational Network (CEN) to help articulate their vision for a free public neighborhood school. CEN is an educational consulting firm that has earned national recognition for expertise in the areas of governance, exceptional student education, curriculum and instructional strategies, and operations.

The unique partnership with Kitson & Partners and CEN has equipped Babcock Ranch to deliver on the promise of high quality, community-based public education with an emphasis on the core community values of environmental stewardship, health & wellness, technology, innovation and collaboration. BNS has also established a partnership with Florida Gulf Coast University to assist with the implementation of Professional Development and work with their College of Education to provide teacher and principal interns.

Governance

Babcock Neighborhood School Governing Board (Board) members have been recruited from a pool of local educational, business and community leaders. Inaugural members are:

Robert Kenny, Ph.D. – Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Leadership, Technology & Research at FGCU. PhD in Curriculum & Instruction from the University of Florida.

Richard Lewis, Ph.D. - Chair of the STEM Team of Southwest Florida, which works to connect students and teachers to STEM businesses through hand on, real-world interactions. He also serves as the STEM Liaison for the Calusa Chapter of the Florida Engineering Society, Vice Regional Chair on the MIT Educational Council, and on STEM advisory organizations for both Lee and Collier County Public Schools.

Jennifer Languell, Ph.D. - Founder and President of Trifecta Construction Solutions, providing consulting services to industries that are incorporating sustainable business practices into their daily operations. An award-winning author, Dr. Languell was also selected as a technical advisor and star for the Discovery Channel's environmental series Discovery Project Earth. Dr. Languell serves in leadership roles with many non-profit organizations, is a past President/Vice President of the Florida Green Building Coalition, a LEED Accredited Professional for the USGBC, a Class 1 Certified Energy Rater, an NAHB Verifier and Certified Green Professional, and a Certifying Agent with the Florida Green Building Coalition.

Jim Gelardi- Cofounder of De LaSalle Academy of Fort Myers, a private, nonprofit elementary and high school for children with special needs, providing a safe, supportive, and nurturing the environment, where each student's diverse ability is honored and valued. Mr. Gelardi was also the Co-founder of St. Martin's Soup Kitchen.

Stacy Lomonaco - Vice President/Branch Manager at Regions Bank, and has been in the Banking and Financial Services Industry for 20 years. She and her husband Ron have also owned Ron's Airport Transportation of Cape Coral for the past 9 years. Mrs. Lomonaco has received many awards for her dedication to fundraising in the community and through her service on various boards. She is a Co-Founder of the Cape Coral Business Alliance, the Chairperson of the CRA Advisory Board for the City of Cape Coral, and served as the Chairperson of the Charter Review Commission for the City of Cape Coral. Stacy is a member of the Cape Coral Giving Alliance of Women, Republican Women of Cape Coral, Federated, and the Cape Coral Civic Association.

Sarah E. Spector - Local Land Use and Community Association Law Attorney. Ms. Spector is a Board Member of the Community Associations Institute, South Gulf Coast Chapter; member of the Lee County Association for Women Lawyers, serving as President from 2015-2016; Recruitment Chair & Big Sister for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast-Lee County Community Board.

Angela Katz - Development Director for the LARC, an organization that provides support for developmentally disabled individuals. Angela holds a certificate in Fundraising Management from the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, Indiana University. She is a licensed fundraising professional and President of Angela Katz, LLC. Angela is a highly accomplished strategic Fundraising/Development professional with broad-based experience in annual campaigns, special events, donor prospecting, recognition, and stewardship, as well as non-profit administration, volunteer management, non-profit messaging, branding, and communications.

Megan Just - Professor, FGCU College of Education.

Fast Facts

- **Babcock Neighborhood School** was established in 2017
- There are nine teachers currently on staff
- One ESE Teacher
- 156 Students
- Approximately 75 hours of Project Based Learning professional development training through Magnify Learning as we work to become the first PBL certified school in Florida
- The average attendance rate is 95%, we believe you must be present to learn
- Speech/Language Pathologist
- Occupational Therapist
- Two paraprofessionals

Timeline

September 2016- Charter Application Approval
November 2016 – Registration available online at www.babcockneighborhoodschool.org
November 2016 - Begin accepting student applications
December 2016 - Groundbreaking
February 2017 - Principal selected
June 2017 - Teachers/staff selected
August 2017 - Classes begin
August 2018- New school building opens