

NAMASTE CHARTER SCHOOL Fact Sheet

Namaste Charter School is a nationally-recognized elementary school in Chicago that was originally conceived to address the problem of childhood obesity.

School Location:	Namaste is located in the McKinley Park neighborhood at 3540 S. Hermitage Avenue and is one of 27 charter schools in Chicago, Illinois.
Student Enrollment:	In 2006, Namaste will welcome 196 Kindergarten through third graders. The school will ultimately serve 450 children in grades K-8 in the coming years.
Year Founded:	2003
Principal:	Allison Slade
What is the aim of Namaste Charter School?	The Namaste model is designed to promote advanced, focused learning and long-term health and exercise habits. This unique educational approach seeks to address the soaring rates of childhood obesity. This is done by providing children with an innovative approach to education that incorporates health, nutrition and athletics into a rigorous curriculum.
Namaste's Philosophy	The philosophy of Namaste is to help students achieve optimal performance by nourishing and stimulating the mind and body of each child. Namaste centers on six core values: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rigorous Academic Standards as the Foundation • Healthy Lifestyle as a Lever for Change • Personal Responsibility for Teaching and Learning • Positive School Culture Promotes Increased Student Achievement • Continual Assessment Informs Instruction • Community Partnerships and Involvement
What Makes Namaste Unique?	Namaste Charter School integrates movement, physical fitness, health education and nutrition across its curriculum to provide a unique learning environment. The school day is extended to allow time for a nutritious breakfast and lunch each day, as well as a full hour of physical education. Students learn that physical activity and healthy eating are an essential part of their day, and these messages are reinforced in all subjects of the curriculum. The school operates year-round, with students receiving the months of December, April and August off, during which time free activities are offered through community partners.
What Does Namaste Mean?	Namaste means <i>my inner light salutes your inner light</i> . The name Namaste was chosen to create an environment to feed both the minds and bodies of its students. Namaste is a gesture of friendship, kindness and appreciation and acknowledges the unique inner qualities of all member of our learning community. These are the values the educators hope to embody to serve as role models for their students.
What is a Charter School?	Charter schools are independent public schools that are operated by outside organizations. The schools are monitored by the school district in which they are chartered and are subject to the same safety, civil rights, special education and bilingual regulations as traditional public schools. Charter schools are free to all students, and children are selected based on a lottery system.

For more information about Namaste Charter School, please visit
<http://namastecharterschool.org/>.