

Where Students Learn to Lead

OUR MISSION

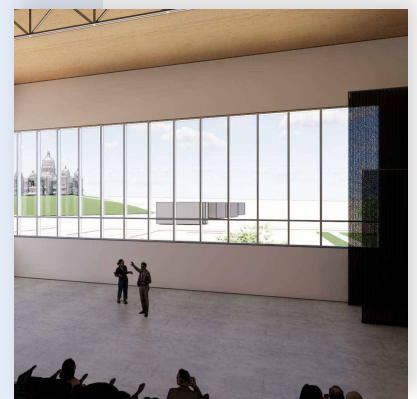
Our mission is to create an environment of excellence and joy where students develop the skills and values necessary to lead with ambition and purpose.

DISCOVER DES MOINES PREP

- **Designed for Tomorrow's Leaders**
Students receive a challenging and empowering education that prepares them to thrive in college, career, and life. With a focus on leadership and academic excellence, we're redefining what's possible.
- **A Strategy for Success**
Students receive a challenging and empowering education that prepares them to thrive in college, career, and life. With a focus on leadership and academic excellence, we're redefining what's possible.
- **Every Child is "College Material"**
Every student will graduate with at least two high-quality college acceptance letters. We equip students with the skills and confidence needed to succeed in college and beyond.
- **A Supportive Community**
Each student has a dedicated mentor who ensures they thrive. Students and staff create a culture where every voice matters, and every learner is empowered to lead and succeed.
- **A Private School Experience (but the Only Cost is Commitment)**
Students receive the high-quality experience of a private school —complete with top-notch facilities, student uniforms, and rigorous academics—but it's completely free. It's excellence without the price tag.

OUR LOCATION

Des Moines Prep will provide students and families with a world-class facility in a safe and centralized location. Our school will be located in the historic East Village neighborhood, blocks from the State Capitol building, at 106 E. 6th Street. Plans are already underway to convert the existing building and neighboring properties into a state-of-the-art campus that will transform how students experience a high school education.



OUR LEADER

Matt Lakis has more than a decade of experience and a track record of success in public education. As Principal of Woodward-Granger High School, he fostered an environment of high academic achievement, with students reporting emotional safety at nearly twice the state average and physical safety at 14% higher than the state average (2024 Conditions for Learning Survey).

Prior to Woodward-Granger, Matt worked in Des Moines Public Schools as an Associate Principal and Literacy Coach, and in Johnston Community Schools as a High School English Teacher and Teacher Leader. When he's not serving his students and community, Matt enjoys spending time with his wife and three children.

"Students deserve a rigorous and dynamic learning environment that prepares them for an ever-changing world. Our goal is to support agency and innovation so our students develop the skills and confidence to author their own stories. I invite you to join us as we begin an exciting new chapter in Des Moines."



FAQS

What is a public charter school?

It's a public and tuition-free school. Charter schools provide a choice for parents and students seeking an option to traditional public schools. Public charter schools are created and governed by private organizations, such as Opportunity Education.

Do students have to pay to attend a public charter school?

No. Like any public school, public charter schools are free to all students.

Are there standards that need to be met to attend a public charter school?

No. Like any public school, a public charter school is open to all students.

How many Opportunity Education Network Schools have you established?

Opportunity Education has been working in education for 20 years including the launch of two schools in 2017 in Omaha, Nebraska and Santa Rosa, California. We are now expanding our impact with the launch of Des Moines Prep and Cedar Rapids Prep in 2025. Additional locations to follow.

Do the Opportunity Education Network Schools have a religious or political affiliation?

No. None of our schools have any religious or political affiliation. We encourage open dialogue where students can explore and exchange ideas.