Howard Street Charter School
Mission Statement

Howard Street Charter School provides an innovative public education balancing the humanities, language, arts, science, and technology.

The Howard Street Charter School complies with provisions of Title IX Regulations in educational programs and activities.
800.02 Admission Policy for Howard Street Charter School (approved Dec 18, 2014)

The official Admissions Process will begin in January of each year for enrollment in HSCS during the fall of the same year.

Admission to HSCS is open to all students who reside in the Salem-Keizer School District. Because of space and enrollment limits, HSCS will give preference to students from inside the S-K District. Out of district students will be admitted only if space is available after waiting lists are exhausted. To be eligible for enrollment, students must reside within the S-K district at the time of application.

Howard Street Charter School will follow admission and lottery policies contained in ORS Chapter 338.125. All other admission policies fulfilled, Howard Street Charter School will give admission preference to children of current staff members.

No 6th grade student will be admitted to HSCS unless an application was completed during the admissions process. No 7th or 8th grade student will be admitted in September of each school year unless an application was on file by the admissions deadline for that year. If there are not enough applications by the first deadline, a second deadline may be established by the Board of Governors.

If more students apply for 6th grade admission than can be accommodated, admission will be decided through a lottery system after waivers are granted. Waivers from the lottery will be granted to the following incoming students who have submitted a complete application by the admission deadline:

- Applicants who WILL HAVE A SIBLING* enrolled in HSCS at the time of attendance and who have been enrolled during the previous year.

After waivers have been granted and the lottery conducted, all applicants will be placed on a list in order of their lottery number. The list will be submitted to Salem Keizer School District Student Services for review of students with Individualized Education Plans (IEP). If a student with an IEP accepts a position at Howard Street and the student's IEP team recommends that the student not be admitted to Howard Street due to inappropriate placement, that student will not be accepted until the team deems placement is appropriate. At that time, the student will be placed first on the waiting list and admitted if a vacancy in that grade becomes available. The list will be kept for two years, and students will be called if and when an opening in their grade occurs.

If more than one student from a family applies for admission in the same year, multiples in the same grade seeking admission will be assigned one lottery number (family number). If this number is drawn then all siblings in that family will be offered admission.

Students will not be enrolled at HSCS on a part-time basis.

Withdrawals - When a student withdraws voluntarily from HSCS to attend another public school, private school or be home-schooled, the student relinquishes his/her place on the enrolled list. If the student changes his/her mind, they may ask to reenter, but his/her name will be placed at the bottom of the waiting list for that grade.

When a student withdraws involuntarily for medical reasons, that student maintains his/her place on the enrolled list until the end of the current school year.

When an admissions situation arises that is not within the policy guidelines established by the HSCS Board of Governors, a staff review and recommendation will be presented to the Board of Governors for final decision.

* For this admissions process, sibling is defined as "one of two or more individuals living in the same household as siblings."

Approved June 14, 2012
Instructions for Admission Application
Howard Street Charter School
Winter 2017

1. Please read all the attached materials. If you have additional questions or concerns, please call the Howard Street Office at 503-399-3408 or email our admission chair Leslie Thompson-Savage at lesliesavage13@gmail.com.

2. Two opportunities to learn more about Howard Street for prospective students and their families are scheduled.

On **Tuesday, February 7, 2017**, an information night for parents will be held at **6:00 p.m.** in the South Salem High School North Library. You may enter through the South High School main entrance.

On **Wednesday, February 8, 2017**, there will be a drop-in Open House for applicants and their parents from **1:15-4:00 p.m.** at Howard Street Charter School. Applicants and parents will be able to take a student-led tour and meet current students and faculty.

3. Completed admissions packets consisting of parent and student forms must be completed and received in the Howard Street office by **4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 3, 2017**. **Late applications will not be accepted.**

4. If more applications are received than there are available openings, a lottery will be held. The lottery will be **Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.** The lottery will be at South Salem High School North Library. Applicants and their families are welcome to attend. Students who are drawn for the 2017-18 6th grade class will be contacted by phone and letter. All other applicants will be contacted by mail and given their lottery draw number and place on the waiting list.

5. To accept your student’s position for 2017-18, you must attend one of the signing events on **April 18, 2017** or **April 24, 2017** at **6pm** at Howard Street Charter School in room 182. If you do not attend one of the signing events, **your position will be given to the next place on the waiting list.**
FAQs about Howard Street Charter School

- Is Howard Street a private school?
No, Howard Street Charter School (HSCS) is part of the Salem-Keizer School District, and, as such, is a public school. It is subject to federal, state and District policies as specified in the charter.

- Is tuition charged for going to Howard Street?
No, as a public school, there is no charge.

- How is Howard Street different from the other middle schools in the district?
Howard Street students experience a different set of core classes than at other middle schools. Students are required to take three years of lab science, visual art, drama, and Spanish in addition to health, mathematics, social studies and language arts. We offer limited electives as we have a large core. We regularly offer instrumental music (band and orchestra), and dance as electives.

The curriculum of Howard Street is centered on project-based learning. Students regularly have large projects to demonstrate their knowledge and are provided with work time and tools to complete their creative outcomes. These projects are used to demonstrate student proficiencies in knowledge, skills and work habits. Projects are often collaborative, meaning students need to work with others of many different learning styles and backgrounds. Students regularly perform in front of peers, adults and the community, and receive peer critique in addition to teacher feedback. This project-based learning means a different, less rigid and less structured work time and a different type of homework.

Howard Street students are required to perform community service as part of their educational experience. This can be done through organized school activities or individually through church, scout, neighborhood or other organized group activities. Sixth graders are required to perform 5 hours, seventh graders are required to perform 10 hours and eighth graders complete 15 hours for a total of 30 hours during the middle school experience.

Another obvious difference is the size - we currently have approximately 160 students in the three grades. This allows for a tight, "family type" community and closer relationships between the teachers and students.

- Do you have sports or P. E. at Howard Street?
Because we want our emphasis to be placed elsewhere, we do not have organized sports or traditional dress down P.E. here. We do require students to take Health/Fitness classes in order to pass the state Health and PE benchmarks. The dance classes provide a physical outlet, as well as students' use of the gym at breaks and lunchtime. All of our students, however, are welcome to join an organized sports team at their resident middle school after our school hours.

- Do you have school bus transportation provided for your students?
No. Parents generally provide transportation and often form carpools with other parents. Some students ride the city bus, while others walk or ride bikes. Our students are allowed to ride the district school buses coming to South High on a space available basis.
- Do your students have to meet State Assessments and other benchmarks?
Most definitely. Our students are tested using the state assessment – Smarter Balance and OAKS. Our students consistently score well on state assessments in reading, writing, science, and math.
Howard Street also uses a proficiency grading system. This means that students work to become proficient in knowledge and skills in a class. Thus, assignments are not lumped together via points and averaged. Instead, students receive scores in a variety of areas to help students and parents better identify academic strengths and areas for improvement as well as behaviors that help students be successful learners.

- How can I get my child into Howard Street?
We have an application process, which begins in January of the students' fifth grade year. An Open House is held in February, and applications are due in early March. As applications are received, they are given a number and on the date we hold the lottery (the second week of March), numbers are drawn lottery style. Those whose applications are chosen will be contacted by telephone or by mail to inform them of the results. The lottery drawing is open to all, however, and anyone may attend. Those not initially drawn are placed on a waiting list and that list follows students through their 7th and 8th grade years.

- I've heard that Howard Street is a TAG school. Is that correct?
No, we accept applications from any student living within the Salem-Keizer school district. Because the lottery drawing is random, we have students in our school that place on all spectrums of the learning curve. Our curriculum is designed to challenge all middle school students with many projects that allow student choice and encourage students to take learning to their level. Students are expected to value learning and participate actively in their education.

- On the other hand, do you have IEP and special education services at your school?
Yes, currently we have one part-time LRC teacher and a half-time LRC assistant who provide services at the school. If an application of a student who is on an IEP is drawn in the lottery, the district is contacted to see if Howard Street is an appropriate placement for the student. The elementary school IEP team has the final say in whether placement at Howard Street is appropriate or not.

- If a student leaves Howard Street, then decides he or she doesn't like their new school, can they come back?
No, once a child leaves Howard Street voluntarily, they need to re-apply and will be placed at the bottom of the waiting list for their current grade.
HOWARD STREET CHARTER SCHOOL

PARENT FORM

Does applicant have an older sibling who currently attends Howard Street AND will attend Howard Street during the 2017-18 school year?  ____YES   Name_______________________________

Student’s Name ___________________________ Identify as:  Male  □ Female  □

Birth Date ___________________________ Current Grade _________(2016-2017)

Student’s Primary Home Address ___________________________

City ___________________________ State __________________ Zip ____________

Parent/Guardian Name #1 ____________________________________________

Address if different than student’s primary ____________________________

City ___________________________ State __________________ Zip ____________

Telephone  Day ____________ Evening ____________  □ Student lives with

Email address: ____________________________

Parent/Guardian Name #2 ____________________________________________

Address if different than student’s primary ____________________________

City ___________________________ State __________________ Zip ____________

Telephone  Day ____________ Evening ____________  □ Student lives with

Email address: ____________________________

Current School _________________________________________

It is helpful for the school to have answers to the following questions regarding your child. Your answers will in no way affect your child’s opportunity for admission.

Questions to be answered by the student’s parent/guardian.

1. Why do you want your child to attend Howard Street Charter School?

2. How do you help your child with their learning?
We have read the Howard Street Charter School Mission Statement, the frequently Asked Questions information and understand the school’s goals and its expectations for students. We understand that students are required to take three years of art, drama and Spanish in addition to the traditional core subjects. Students are also expected to perform community service. We are supportive of this mission and focus.

__________________________________  __________________________
Date                                                Signature of Parent/Guardian

__________________________________  __________________________
Date                                                Signature of Student
HOWARD STREET CHARTER SCHOOL
STUDENT FORM

Student Name __________________________ Current School _________________________

The student should answer these questions in his or her own handwriting (please do not type or use a
word processor for this page). You may use the back of this page if more room is needed. This information
will be provided to HSCS staff to familiarize them with the students who will be coming to Howard Street
Charter School. Answers will not affect the lottery.

1. Why do you want to attend Howard Street Charter School?

2. You will be required to take three years of Spanish, art, and drama. Why is it important to you to have
such a program?

3. Please tell us what your favorite course or subject area of study in school is, and why.

4. Please tell us what your favorite out-of-school activity is (such as scouts, sports, church, home, etc.)
and why.

5. How would your current teachers describe your classroom behavior?