



# MONARCH ACADEMY:

*Public Charter and Contract Schools in Anne Arundel County*



## **MONARCH ACADEMY ANNAPOLIS:**

*Public Contract School*

Monarch Academy Annapolis serves students in prekindergarten through fifth grade offering both traditional in-person programming and eSchool @ Monarch Academy Annapolis, a permanent, blended-distance-learning option with 80% virtual and up to 20% in-classroom instruction. Monarch Academy Annapolis blends Transformation Education with the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme and is guided by the belief that the school culture is integral to creating a sense of caring, commitment and critical thinking in our students. These proven methods are tailored to the uniqueness of the Annapolis community, one rich in diversity and cultural heritage.

The arts are infused into our curriculum and supported by an arts integration resource teacher dedicated to working directly with students and teachers. There is a focus on multi-intelligences and the use of multiple perspectives when problem-solving. Our students collaborate and are encouraged to question, explore and think creatively. They have opportunities to increase their independence and leadership skills, set and meet goals and experience learning in an outdoor classroom and multiple outdoor play spaces.

## **MONARCH GLOBAL ACADEMY LAUREL:**

*Public Contract School*

Monarch Global Academy Laurel serves students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Its culture and commitment stems from the mission: *We are lifelong learners inspiring lifelong learners.* Every day we cultivate our critical thinkers through rigorous inquiry and authentic experience. Our overarching goal is to produce globally minded citizens, who serve a cause greater than themselves.

To this end, Monarch Global Academy Laurel, an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme World School, believes student learning is best when it is rooted in authentic action that is relevant to the “real world.”

The International Baccalaureate model also promotes international-mindedness in which teaching and learning address human commonality, diversity and multiple perspectives. Students’ 21st century skill development is further supported by regular technology integration, including our middle school’s Bring Your Own Device program, weekly Spanish instruction and project-based learning.

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## **MONARCH ACADEMY GLEN BURNIE:**

*Public Charter School*

Monarch Academy Glen Burnie serves students in kindergarten through eighth grade in an environment that fosters the notion that we are all learners. Incorporating Transformation Education and Expeditionary Learning, our goal is to keep learning fun and connected while inspiring students to become citizen scholars and instill a sense of self-worth and a desire to serve, care and contribute to their family, school, community, country and planet.

Using the Common Core standards, Monarch Academy Glen Burnie creates purposeful and authentic learning experiences through in-depth studies of topics that engage students in comprehensive research, hands-on learning and unique presentations in hopes of benefitting every child academically, behaviorally and socially. The arts and the newest neuroscience findings are integrated into our instructional approach and school culture, emphasizing high achievement through active learning, character growth and teamwork.

Monarch  
**Wingspan**

SPREADING MONARCH ACADEMY NEWS AND SUCCESS

## WHAT ARE PUBLIC CHARTER AND CONTRACT SCHOOLS?

*Charter and contract schools are independent, tuition-free and publically funded schools that are open to all students, regardless of testing or screening, yet follow the same laws and regulations as public schools.* These schools give families more educational choices, enabling parents to choose to send their child to a school that is compatible with what their child needs to be successful academically. Charter schools are open to all students who live in the district. Contract schools are similar to charter schools except they give preference to designated attendance boundaries.

*Visit [monarchacademy.org](http://monarchacademy.org) to learn more about Monarch Academy and apply online.*



## DISCOVERING THE IMPACT OF MARINE LIFE

### *Monarch Academy Glen Burnie*

Monarch Academy Glen Burnie's fifth-grade expedition was devoted to the study of the eastern oyster. Our students were excited by the many opportunities for hands-on learning it provided, including the creation of several types of man-made oyster reefs which will be deployed into the Chesapeake Bay. Students studied marine organisms and their habitats at Horn Point, on the Choptank River, and explored the waterways of the Chesapeake Bay by boat. Monarch Academy Glen Burnie partnered with the Annapolis Maritime Museum and introduced students to experts to build their knowledge. They participated in numerous activities to increase community awareness about the importance of the eastern oyster. They made interactive felt boards featuring marine organisms which were donated to the museum for use in their educational programs. They also met officers of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and spent an afternoon in a courtroom listening to DNR cases. Students were encouraged to take risks, collaborate and persevere, and to see the value of responsibility as they assumed the role of being the voice for the eastern oyster – all while meeting the standards and expectations of fifth grade.

## LEARNING BY DOING

### *Monarch Academy Annapolis*

Educating the whole child is a passion of the teaching teams at Monarch Academy Annapolis. Our teachers provide opportunities for students to take control of their learning, and our hallways reflect the unique, enriched learning environments and child-centered instructional strategies designed to transform the way our students experience learning. Coupled with the Primary Years Programme framework, teachers have flexibility in how they achieve standards-based outcomes, and it shows.

Homemade polling stations with rolls of "I voted" stickers sit outside the third-grade

classrooms as part of a unit called "Election Expressions." Graphs of student surveys on a variety of topics from class pet names to future playground equipment hang on the walls. A first-grade unit on storytelling generated patchwork quilts, sewn by parents. Narrative essays next to the quilts explain the symbols each student selected for their quilt square. Kindergarteners design boats as they learn about motion, and the unit culminates with an annual regatta that parents are invited to attend.

Our teachers engage with parents, and the community at large, in the learning process. Creativity and community are becoming the hallmarks of this fast-growing school.

## STUDENTS INSPIRED BY REAL-WORLD ISSUES

### *Monarch Global Academy Laurel*

“Our sixth-graders were inspired by the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals for their culminating project, which is called Primary Years Programme Expedition (PYPX) in the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme,” says Monarch Global Academy Laurel Principal Donna O’Shea. The sixth-grade PYPX was launched with an Action Fair, and participation by local experts from organizations such as the SPCA and Hungry Harvest galvanized student action and advocacy. Students worked

alongside like-minded mentors to research real-world issues in small inquiry groups where they examined a wide range of topics from global warming to discrimination. One group even traveled to Washington, D.C., to interview a law firm about current issues and laws surrounding discrimination. Students then pursued self-driven community action activities, which included volunteering at local races and neighborhood clean-ups and resulted in a series of presentations to the local community. “Our Collaborative

Student Inquiry class is a natural transition for seventh-graders,” says Ms. O’Shea. Using project-based learning and the Transformation Education emphasis on identity, entrepreneurship, leadership and environments, students develop quarterly projects. The seventh grade explored digital footprints and identity. Student projects included hosting a Shark Tank-like event, launching social movement websites and producing an educational film festival on the nine elements of digital citizenship.

We value the sense of community the whole school brings, from before-school activities offered across the arts to the activities within the actual classroom. We really appreciate that students get a mixture of hands-on activities and learning that is tailored to each child. The teachers at Monarch Annapolis really help our children grow. The teachers let students explore and suggest things – it is not the rigid experience we have had with schools in the past.

When Erin was younger, she was afraid to ask questions. She has a bit of the perfectionist in her and doing homework could be a tearful experience. I’ve seen a big difference since she has been at Monarch. She has embraced the growth mindset and has learned it is okay to make a mistake – she can fix it and make it better. Watching her blossom at Monarch has made me eternally grateful for the sense of community the administration and staff have instilled throughout the entire school.

#### **KAILE BOWER**

*Parent of a Graduate,  
Monarch Academy Annapolis*



As a staff member at Monarch Academy Glen Burnie, I get to see firsthand the passion and love that each teacher gives their students, and I wanted that for my children. Monarch Academy Glen Burnie is a place where a child’s uniqueness is celebrated and teachers work to meet each child’s individual needs. Through their confidence, determination and excitement, Monarch teachers are living examples of what the students are striving to achieve. I see the fire to learn ignited in my children, like never before, and at the end of the day, it’s difficult to get them out the door to go home.

#### **CRYSTAL FINK**

*Parent and Staff Member, Monarch Academy Glen Burnie*

## FROM THE PARENT PERSPECTIVE

The main reason our family decided to attend Monarch Global Academy Laurel, despite having a good experience at our previous school, was the International Baccalaureate Primary Years program. We knew the value and rigor of the Programme and were excited to have our youngest daughter exposed to the PYP way of learning. With the interactive, analytical and global aspects of the program, we were encouraged that our child would learn what she needed to be a productive and global citizen.

From a parental viewpoint, our voices are heard, and we work in collaboration with the school to provide educational experiences for all of the students. We love the bright building and the wonderful artwork on the walls.

Change is sometimes scary, and it wasn’t any different when we made the leap from our previous school. However, we have been very happy with our decision. Our daughter has thrived under the fantastic team of administrators, teachers and support staff of Principal Donna O’Shea. Her leadership is what sets apart Monarch Global Academy Laurel. With her vision and dedicated staff, they have achieved many accomplishments in the short time the school came into existence. That is no small feat.

#### **SHIRLEY ENG**

*Parent, Monarch Global Academy Laurel*



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR



## *Monarch Academy* **BENEFITS**

- Rigorous project-based instruction
- Integration of the arts
- Technology-infused curriculum
- A culture of respect emphasizing individual character and integrity
- Cooperative learning and team building
- School choice for parents
- Active parent and family involvement
- Engaged community partnerships
- Full acceptance of all students regardless of standardized testing
- Transformation Education approach

**LEARN MORE & APPLY:**  
[monarchacademy.org](http://monarchacademy.org)

## **OUR SCHOOL CAMPUSES:**

### **Monarch Academy Annapolis (Pre-K-5)**

*In-person and permanent eSchool options*

2000 Capital Drive • Annapolis, MD 21401 • 410.934.1444  
[monarchacademy.org/annapolis](http://monarchacademy.org/annapolis)

### **Monarch Academy Glen Burnie (K-8)**

6730 Baymeadow Drive • Glen Burnie, MD 21060 • 410.760.3603  
[monarchacademy.org/glen-burnie](http://monarchacademy.org/glen-burnie)

### **Monarch Global Academy Laurel (K-8)**

430 Brock Bridge Road • Laurel, MD 20724 • 301.886.8648  
[monarchacademy.org/global](http://monarchacademy.org/global)

## **Paperwork and requirements for prekindergarten/kindergarten:**

- Original birth certificate
- Social Security number is optional
- Two proofs of residency\*
- Copy of immunization record
- Kindergarten: must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1
- Prekindergarten: must be 4 years old on or before Sept. 1; eligibility subject to state enrollment/income criteria

*\*1-valid rental agreement, deed or mortgage document issued within 60 days AND 2-current utility/cable bill, bank statement, paystub, etc.)*

