

Maxine Gros Giardina

January 29, 1940 - February 24, 2001

The Maxine Giardina Charter School honors its namesake. Maxine's hopes and dreams for students who learn differently have finally been realized. Her steely determination and persistence, her courage and fortitude, her wisdom and outspokenness, her love of family and friends, and her sense of humor and responsibility live on in each one of us. Maxine has been and will continue to be an inspiration and a role model for us all.

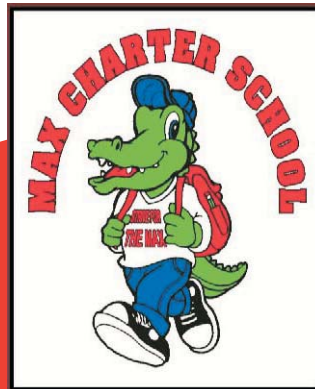
Maxine Gros Giardina lived her life to the fullest and fought hard to address the needs of students with dyslexia, ADHD, and similar learning differences. She was a driving force in the historical battle for dyslexia recognition, and this community is proud to have this first-of-its-kind school named after her.



*"I'll spend my days in Heaven...
doing good on Earth."*

MAX Charter School, in a unique partnership with Nicholls State University and the Louisiana Center for Dyslexia and Related Learning Disorders, is dedicated to supporting the development of all children. Our teachers and support staff use proven methodologies and a highly effective curriculum to help children grow academically, socially, and physically. Our faculty regularly participates in professional development in order to improve skills and offer a better learning experience for the children.

We use two major interventions to serve the needs of children with dyslexia and related learning differences. Project Read and LANGUAGE! as interventions have been shown scientifically to provide the structured and sequential instruction that is effective for children with dyslexia and related learning differences. Our teachers have been given extensive training in these two interventions and other professional development so that we can properly serve this unique population of students.



We Strive for the MAX!

The Maxine Giardina Charter School

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"Partners in Education with Nicholls State University"



Mission Statement

The MAX Charter School is committed to meeting the educational needs of students with dyslexia and other language-related learning differences. Its mission is to empower the lives of these students who learn differently.

What Is Dyslexia?

According to the International Dyslexia Association, dyslexia is a neurologically based, often familial, disorder which interferes with the acquisition and processing of language. Varying in degrees of severity, it is manifested by difficulties in receptive and expressive language, including phonological processing in reading, writing, spelling, handwriting, and sometimes in arithmetic. Dyslexia is not the result of lack of motivation, sensory impairment, inadequate instructional or environmental opportunities, or other limiting conditions, but it may occur together with these conditions.

Although dyslexia is life-long, individuals with dyslexia frequently respond successfully to timely and appropriate intervention.

Persons with dyslexia are those who, despite traditional classroom teaching, have failed to master the basic elements of the language system of their culture. Since language is the necessary tool upon which subsequent academic learning is based, such persons often encounter difficulty in all educational endeavors.

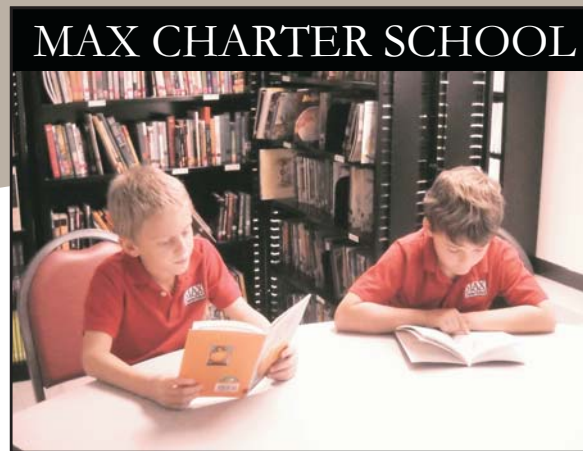
What Are Learning Differences?

"Learning differences" is not a specific term; it is a category containing many specific disabilities, all of which cause learning to be difficult. The term "learning disability/differences" means a disorder in one or more of the basic processes involved in understanding spoken or written language. It may show up as a problem in listening, thinking, speaking, reading, writing, or spelling, or in a person's ability to do math, despite at least average intelligence.

The term does not include children who have learning problems which are primarily the result of visual, hearing, or physical handicaps, mental retardation, emotional disturbance, or of environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage.

About Us

MAX is located on the Nicholls State University Campus between Family Housing and Babington Hall. The school is dedicated to educating students with dyslexia and related learning differences. The school, which is approved by the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, is designed for students in first through eighth grade who struggle with learning differences.



The MAX Philosophy

All children can learn when their learning disorders are properly diagnosed, when their teachers are properly trained, and when their educational environment emphasizes support, dignity, and individual responsibility.

What Is a Type 2 Charter School?

MAX is a not-for-profit Type 2 public charter school. Charter schools are elementary or secondary schools that receive public money but have been freed from some of the rules, regulations, and statutes that apply to other public schools in exchange for some type of accountability for producing certain results, which are set forth in each school's charter. A Type 2 charter school exists under its own school board, separate from other local school boards. A charter school serves as a school of choice for parents who seek an alternative to the traditional school district.



Quick Facts

- MAX Charter School is the first of its kind in the state of Louisiana. We are one of the few public schools in the nation dedicated to meeting the needs of children with dyslexia and other related learning differences.
- MAX is a nonprofit co-educational school for children in first through eighth grade.
- Our faculty members have been given extensive training so that we can properly serve our students.
- Our dedicated faculty members are motivated not only to foster academic success but inspire self-confidence to achieve academic, social, and real-world goals.
- The MAX Charter School complies with all federal and state non-discrimination policies.

The MAX Charter School does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, ethnicity, or national origin.