

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools
Arizona State Board of Education
1700 W. Washington St., Room 164, Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602) 364-3080 Fax (602) 364-3089
www.asbcs.az.gov

CHARTER GRADE LEVEL AMENDMENT REQUEST

NOV 24 2008

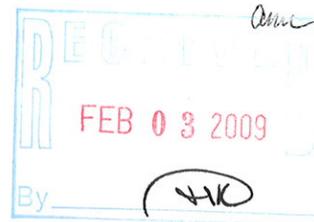
(Charter Holder Name) Acorn Montessori Charter School (CTDS) 138760

(Charter Holder Mailing Address) 8556 E. Loos Dr

(City, State) Prescott Valley (Zip) 86314

(Charter Representative's Name) Cynthia Johnson

(Phone Number) 928-772-5778 (Fax Number) 928-775-8654



Failure to submit all required documentation will result in the Amendment Request being returned without being processed.
Faxed copies will not be accepted. Please send originals.

Check appropriate box

Adding grade levels served for charter

Included are the following:

- Board minutes approving the change (minutes must comply with Open Meeting Law ARS §38-431.01)
- Narrative describing how the additional grades support the philosophy, methods of instruction, special emphasis, and mission of the charter
- Mastery of coursework for additional grades
- Expected student performance on state mandated tests at all grade levels impacted by the addition
- Timeline for implementation
- Changes in staffing to support the requirements for Highly Qualified.

For K-8

For each grade level being added, provide the following as a representation of a program of instruction aligned to the State Academic Standards and to the methods of instruction described in the charter:

- Math - A completed curriculum sample template including all required attachments as outlined on the template attached.
- Language Arts - A completed curriculum sample template, for both reading and writing, including all required attachments as outlined on the template attached.

For 9-12

For each grade level being added, provide the following as a representation of a program of instruction aligned to the State Academic Standards and to the methods of instruction described in the charter:

- Math - A math course description and a completed curriculum sample template including all required attachments as outlined on the template (template is available on the ASBCS website).
- Language Arts - A language arts course description and a completed curriculum sample template, for both reading and writing, including all required attachments as outlined on the template (template is available on the ASBCS website).
- Graduation requirements (number of credits in each content area and electives)
- Course level proficiency required for credit and acceptance of transfer credit

Decreasing grade levels served for charter

Included is the following:

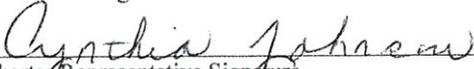
- Board minutes approving the change (minutes must comply with Open Meeting Law ARS §38-431.01)
- Rationale for decrease in grade levels served and effective date of change

The Arizona State Board for Charter Schools and Acorn Montessori Charter School (Charter Holder), herein agree to amend the terms of the charter contract as follows:

FROM: K-7

TO: K-8

In witness whereof, Charter Holder has signed this contract amendment as of this 19 day of November, 2008, and the State Board for Charter Schools has signed this contract amendment as of this ____ day of ____, 200__, to take effect at such time as it is signed by both parties.


Charter Representative Signature

Representative Signature for the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools

Acorn Montessori Charter School
8556 E. Loos Dr
Prescott Valley, Arizona 86314
928-772-5778

Board Meeting- November 14th, 2008

Agenda –Amendment to add 8th Grade 2009-10 School Year

Members Present
Marilyn Schoncite
Dawn Grantham
Cynthia Johnson
Aaron Herres
Keith Johnson

Hyatt Regency
11999 Harbor Blvd
Garden Grove, California
Montessori Education Conference

Currently Acorn Montessori Charter School serves students Kindergarten through seventh grade.

A request to add eighth grade was submitted to the board. Students, parents, staff and the Prescott Valley community support this request.

Amended curriculum was given to board members for their review October 3rd.

A vote to add eighth grade was presented to the Acorn Montessori Charter School Board this day @ noon.

All board members on this day November 14th, 2008 at 12:20pm agreed unanimously to approve the amendment for eighth grade beginning school year 2009-10.

Dismissed 12:30pm

C Johnson

Acorn Montessori Charter School
Grade 8 Charter Amendment Proposal
Narrative

The eighth grade is a unique echelon in a student's life of learning they are a work in progress. The eighth grader is at the threshold of a new era in their development of metacognition, the work, the challenges, the learning.

Our curriculum has been designed for this sensitive period to not only adhere to our philosophy of independent investigated learning, but also to prepare the student for their future learning experiences, as well as bestowing upon them valuable life long learning strategies in a variety of different learning environments.

The somewhat decentralized, self disciplined approach to learning is kept in the form of a contract based rotational learning environment as always with morning lessons accommodating the entire class and continual small group leveled direct instruction throughout the day. This philosophy has been counterbalanced with a strong emphasis of structure in all facets of the curriculum notably in reading, language, writing, mathematics and science in order to better prepare students for the more traditional learning they will face in High School.

In a sense the eighth grade curriculum is guided by three basic goals: provide stimulating, multifaceted learning that adheres to the guidelines of the Arizona State Standards in an innovative, effective way, expose students who are accustomed to the Montessori philosophy to more traditional means of instruction in preparation for the next level their academic career gently while reaping the benefits of the Montessori an education (conversely, to expose students with a more traditional instructional background to the multidimensional Montessori method while maintaining a traditional context), and endowing students with a variety of effective learning strategies both explicitly and implicitly by varying scientifically proven approaches within the same topic.

Acorn Montessori Charter School
Grade 8 Charter Amendment Proposal
Goals for Academic Achievement

Our post-program performance goals in objective academic achievement benchmarking is to have the mean test result of our eighth grade students to meet or exceed the state standards in AIMS and it meet state mandated testing without having to teach specifically toward these test, relying rather on the students' broad understanding of the core curriculum concepts and the talents of the highly qualified teaching team to guide them in their test achievement, synthesizing the correct answers, rather than regurgitating memorized ones. These goals are intrinsically measurable, as the test themselves will provide an indication of the success of the Standard Based curriculum.

As for the goals regarding coursework, we intend to impart upon the students a mastery that goes beyond the topics specifically studied in a subject, but rather give them the tools, the foundation through which further learning and research for academic life long learners will be significantly be bolstered, while at the same time making sure subjects, relating to real life and reinforced across the academic disciplines. These goals will be measured by broad- spectrum test and assessments on various subjects as diagnostic for the effectiveness of the curriculum.

Montessori philosophy promotes curriculum to be individualized to meet the challenge of each student. Acorn Montessori Charter School ensures that direct scientifically standard based instructional materials and Arizona State Standards will be met or exceeded within this process.

The curriculum is contract-based in the amount of work is allocated to be completed in a week, allowing the students to work at their own encouraged pace, taking more time with as that they experience difficulty in and less in the ones they have already mastered. An early estimate of incoming students previously unable to meet the state standards is 30% of the eighth grade populations, a percentage that we plan to significantly reduce by the end of the year.

Our graduating schema will be based on the standard "percentage" grading rubric, with each 10% representing a different letter value (i.e. 90-100%-A, 80-90%B, 70-79%-C, etc)

November 19, 2008

Acorn Montessori Charter School

Timeline for Grade 8 Amendment Proposal

Acorn Montessori Charter School will accept open enrollment for the 2009-10 school year.

Changes in staffing to support the requirement for Highly Qualified:

The current seventh grade Highly Qualified team will loop with their students to eighth grade.