

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools
Arizona State Board of Education
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ADDING GRADE LEVELS TO CHARTER AMENDMENT REQUEST

(Charter Holder Name) Camelback ^{Education, Inc.} Academy (CIDS) 078959000

(Charter Holder Mailing Address) 7634 W Camelback Road

(City, State) Glendale, AZ (Zip) 85303

(Charter Representative's Name) Karen Kordon

(Phone Number) 623-247-2204 (Fax Number) 623-247-1113

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.

Adding grade levels served for charter

Included are the following:

- Board minutes approving the change (If the body is subject to Open Meeting Law, minutes must comply with ARS §38-431.01)
- Narrative that 1) provides background and support for expansion; 2) how the additional grades support the philosophy, methods of instruction, special emphasis, and mission of the charter
- Timeline for implementation
- Proficiency level required for credit and/or promotion and credit transfer policies

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.

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

FROM SERVING GRADES: KG-6

TO SERVING GRADES: KG-8

In witness whereof, Charter Holder has signed this contract amendment as of this 18 day of February, 2010 and the State Board for Charter Schools has signed this contract amendment as of this ____ day of ____, 20__, 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

Camelback Academy Governing Board Minutes

MINUTES

Building 400, Room 119

January 13, 2010

4:00 PM

Members Present: Karen Kordon, Jeff Ogle, James Kordon, Esther Jepsen, Lisa Brainard

Members Absent: None

Other Community: None

- Meeting was called to order at 4:00pm.
- Attendance was called.
- Pledge of Allegiance was stated.
- Karen Kordon welcomed Lisa Brainard.
- Karen presented need for certified principal for sy10/11, stating that Edie Fritz, the interim principal does not have a current certification.
- Karen recommended that since she was appointed as an interim principal, she would be required to apply and interview for position along with other candidates.
- Discussion was made regarding the interview process including:
 - Application timeline
 - Reference checks
 - Interview steps
- Karen Kordon presented the addition of 7th and 8th grades to the school's charter.
- Discussion was made regarding need, space, continuation of mission, and the process of amending the charter.
- Jeff Ogle motioned to move forward with amending the charter to include grades 7 and 8.
- Lisa Brainard seconded the motion.
- The motioned passed without dissent.
- Karen Kordon motioned to adjourn. Lisa Brainard 2nd the motion.

Respectfully Submitted:

James Kordon
Board Secretary

Camelback Academy Grade Level Amendment Narrative

Camelback Academy was granted its Charter with the State of Arizona in 2002. Originally, Camelback Academy was structured to be a K-8 school. In 2004, a new, 22 classroom building was designed and constructed to house our K-8 students and faculty. In looking to the future, the staff and Governing Board considered the possibility of changing the grade levels served to include grades K-6. The school considered several variables, including: readiness to effectively serve a middle school population, the opportunity to accommodate 3 sections of each grade, the impact of having middle school students on the same campus as primary students, the ability to educate more students in a primary setting, and a more streamlined focus of K-6.

Camelback Academy has operated as a K-6 school for 5 years. Each year we re-evaluate the effectiveness of our decision to remain a K-6 school. We determined last year that as a school, we would better serve our stakeholders as a K-8 school. We based this decision on several factors including; readiness to serve a middle school population, evaluation of surrounding districts and charters, parent requests, student needs, academic growth and readiness of students, school-wide discipline and management abilities, continuation of school mission, and responsibility to our school community. The staff and board determined that we had built the infrastructure to effectively meet the needs of 7th and 8th grade students and prepare them for high school and beyond.

The surrounding districts and charter schools are primarily K-8 schools; each year our 6th grade parents appeal to Camelback Academy to continue on to 8th grade. As a K-6 school, we are sending our students on to other charter or district schools at a precarious time, right in the midst of their middle school years. We believe that we would better serve our students and families by continuing the mission of Camelback Academy to students through the 8th grade.

Our plan for implementation is to add 7th grade for the 2010/2011 school year and then 8th grade the following school year. To accommodate the added grade levels, we will reduce the number of classes in kindergarten from 3 classes to 2. Additionally, we have the ability to utilize classroom space in the 200 building, which was the original classroom building for the school.

Camelback Academy's mission is to ensure our students receive a high quality education in a safe environment that promotes character development and enthusiastic, lifelong learning through a cooperative relationship with parents, students, and the community. We believe that continuing to the 8th grade would support our mission by

preparing our students both academically by socially and developmentally for the higher levels of responsibility required in high school and beyond.

Camelback Academy is labeled a Performing-Plus school. We have grown academically as a school and our school-wide improvement model supports future growth with the goal of obtaining an exceeding label.

Our 7th and 8th grade, McDougal Littell curriculum is a continuation of our K-6, Houghton Mifflin curriculum; it is aligned to state standards and supports our educational model and philosophy which states:

- Camelback Academy believes that children learn at various levels, and have different brain-based learning styles. Our teachers are trained to differentiate instruction and teach to the different styles.
- We use traditional drill and practice to build a base for higher levels of thinking, decision making and problem solving.
- We utilize phonemic awareness, guided reading, literacy work stations, and the six traits of writing in our Language Arts Program.
- Our curriculum includes an accelerated educational model, providing strong basic skills in reading, writing, mathematics, science, technology and social studies.
- Our teachers evaluate student progress and mastery using various proven assessment strategies and tools.
- Camelback Academy has a philosophy that is centered on students. We are committed to accommodating the needs of our diverse student population.
- We are on a constant improvement model, which progressively moves the school and the students toward a more technologically rich and academically challenging curriculum and environment.
- We have developed a strong support system for exceptional students of all types and encourage parental participation in the planning of these processes.
- Camelback Academy has high expectations for behavior, respect for self and others, and pride in school and self based on a strong value system. We implement the six pillars of character in our day-to-day activities.

Camelback Academy's rates proficiency on a grading scale, (A 90% - 100%, B 80% - 89%, C 70% - 79%, D 60% - 69%, F 59% and below.) Our requirements for promotion to the next grade level state that students minimally achieve a passing grade in all core academic areas by midterm of the 4th quarter of school. If a student's ability to promote is in question, we begin evaluating the student during the 2nd quarter of school and determine proficiency during the 4th quarter.

Camelback Academy's staff, students, parents and board have overwhelmingly supported the goal of returning to a K-8 school; our hope is that the State Board for Charter Schools will support our desire to create a positive and successful learning environment for our students through the 8th grade.