A. Create Academy Curriculum

Overview

Create Academy will implement an arts integrated and project-based curriculum. The academic content will be at the center of the curriculum, with arts integration used as a tool with which to enhance academic achievement. In every lesson, each academic core subject (English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies) will be paired with at least one arts subject from the following areas: Creative Writing, Dance, Design, Film, Music, Theatre, and Visual Art. The academic and arts subjects will weave together to provide opportunities for students to explore content knowledge in authentic and creative projects throughout the curriculum. Students will have access to in-depth studies within one or more arts studio courses to learn artistic tools and skills that will assist them as they complete coursework in their academic content area classes. Additionally, students will be given opportunities to explore social justice issues by addressing societal inequities (e.g., the achievement gap) and empowering a marginalized community through the creation of fair and inclusive solutions.

Alignment with Educational Philosophy

Create Academy is founded on the principle that an integrated arts education is critical to student achievement. An arts integrated curriculum addresses students' multiple intelligences by providing visual, audial, and kinesthetic learning opportunities. Create Academy also supports students' social and character growth by providing meaningful experiences through two focused and academically aligned social justice projects each year that teach students acceptance and empathy while empowering them to express their individual voices and celebrate societal diversity.

Our daily schedule will start with breakfast at 7:30 a.m., and conclude at 4:15 p.m. four days a week to maximize learning time. Once a week, Create Academy will have a weekly early release day when students are dismissed at 12:45 p.m. to provide the instructional staff with ongoing professional development opportunities in accordance with our performance management plan.

Alignment with Arizona College and Career Ready Standards

The entire academic curriculum of Create Academy will be centered on the Arizona College and Career Ready Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics for each grade level. Additionally, our Science curriculum will follow a combination of the National Next Generation Science Standards and the Arizona State Standards, and our Social Studies curriculum will follow the Arizona State Standards. Create Academy will use the National Core Arts Standards (in review at time of submission) to create our arts curriculum, both for our arts integration sessions as well as for our arts studio courses.

Creation of Curriculum

Overview
The School Directors in partnership with the instructional staff, when appropriate, will create the curriculum for Create Academy. We will consult with relevant content and instructional experts, when appropriate, to ensure both alignment with the Arizona College and Career Ready Standards and arts integration best practices. The standards-based academic content will be the forefront of the curriculum, with the arts integrated seamlessly into the curriculum and used as a vehicle to enhance academic student learning outcomes.

The curriculum will be taught through arts integrated courses, where the academic standard is emphasized by the arts, which are used as a supportive resource and instructional tool except during studio arts courses. Curriculum for each grade level will be mapped out with grade level scopes and sequences and pacing guides to ensure that the core academic content is intentionally taught throughout the year. Teachers will have autonomy to create integrated projects for students, while following scopes and sequences and the pacing guides. These guides will also be used for the purposes of school-wide formative assessment and summative assessment benchmarks.

Arts Integrated Academic Core Content
Currently, there are no pre-packaged complete curricular resources for use within an interdisciplinary arts integrated school model. Create Academy will pull from a variety of resources to create our curriculum, and our teachers will be empowered to implement instruction that is relevant to our students' lives. Developing curriculum "in-house" allows Create Academy the ability to make learning meaningful to our particular student population and connect academic and creative concepts to themselves and their communities through project-based learning.

English Language Arts
Following the Arizona College and Career Ready Standards (AZCCRS), curriculum in English Language Arts (ELA) will inherently integrate other subject areas as emphasized within those standards. ELA curriculum will include a variety of texts, both culturally relevant and academically rigorous, to best prepare students for postsecondary education and career. Since the emphasis within the AZCCRS is on informational text, Create Academy will incorporate informational text that is meaningful to our students, including texts to support their acceptance into college or career planning, such as financial aid legal information and job application language. However, we will include literary text as appropriate to provide a well-rounded ELA curriculum. Create Academy is highly committed to the outcomes of an arts integrated curriculum, and a rigorous arts and social justice education would be incomplete without providing the opportunity to better understand and embody empathy through diverse character perspectives found in literature, creative writing, and theatre.

Mathematics
Create Academy's Mathematics curriculum will follow the AZCCRS and whenever possible, use tangible examples of mathematical scenarios that can be found in society, assisted by academic integration with ELA, Science and Social Studies standards when appropriate. Modeling

mathematical principles is key within the AZCCRS, so Create Academy will utilize manipulatives, arts integration, and project-based learning to contextualize math concepts for students to enhance their understanding.

Science
Science curriculum will be integrated with the arts intentionally to augment scientific principles and offer students a hands-on, inquiry-based approach to understanding those principles, following the National Next Generation Science Standards. For thousands of years, societies have blended arts and sciences together to visualize scientific discoveries, model scientific findings, and explain the workings of the world to the masses. Leonardo da Vinci is one example of an innovative scientist who was also a renowned artist, and Create Academy will provide a curriculum to support the fusion of academic content and creativity to provide students with multifaceted perspectives about a given scientific topic.

Social Studies
Social Studies curriculum will follow the Arizona State Standards, and Create Academy will infuse social justice concepts where appropriate. Our curriculum will incorporate history lessons from a variety of perspectives to provide students with access to a balanced social studies curriculum that explores and represents multiple historical perspectives so that students can draw their own conclusions. This supports Create Academy's core value of empowering students to think for themselves and take ownership over their education. They will be encouraged to consciously and ethically contribute positive change to strengthen their communities.

Studio Arts Content:
The studio arts course will be devoted to technical training in the various arts disciplines, focusing on skills for the students to later use in the course units. Studying the arts has several positive outcomes, including acquiring transferrable skills that will later be helpful for professional careers. For instance, theatre teaches students to collaborate and compromise with diverse people while producing a cohesive performance; music teaches focus and discipline as students practice to perfect proper pitch and notation; and design focuses on creating solutions to address problems or issues in society. In addition, the arts teach students social skills to be productive members of society. For example, a creative writer learns empathy while writing poetry about another person's experience with tragedy; a dancer learns to use body language to convey emotions and ideas in a nonlinguistic format; artists learn to use their work to evoke emotion, communicate thoughts and develop understanding across separate communities; and filmmaking can be used to address the human condition, enact social justice, and bridge differences between our social and physical environments.

Grades K-6 Curriculum

While much of Create Academy's curriculum will be developed in similar fashion across grade levels, there are some elements that are distinct to each of the elementary and secondary programs.

Spanish Language Arts
Each student in grades 1-6 at Create Academy will receive instruction in Spanish four days a week, unless they are an English Language Learner, in which case this time will be used to provide additional and intentional English language instruction by either the classroom teacher or the special education teacher. Teaching an academic Spanish foreign language arts course to all students provides a social justice experience for our students, which is aligned with our mission. Given our location, many of our students will have Spanish spoken at home as their primary language. These students may view learning English as a challenge. Many of them may not have had academic Spanish instruction that included reading and writing instruction. For our students for whom English is the primary home language, a Spanish language arts class would help them work towards becoming bilingual while also giving them some perspective of what our English Language Learners may experience while learning a new language. This course will be differentiated based on student ability so that those students who are already fluent in Spanish (speaking, reading, and writing) have the opportunity to engage in deeper learning using advanced Spanish curriculum. This course will also be integrated with the arts so as to facilitate language acquisition.

B. Create Academy Instruction

Overview and Instructional Methods

Create Academy will use a variety of instructional methods to teach curriculum to students. Everyday, students will learn academic content through the lens of an arts subject. For instance, during a science lesson on the solar system, students may learn how the Earth rotates and revolves around the Sun through dance movements. In this context, the art form of dance is a tool to learn and reinforce academic content. Often, the teacher will provide a mini-lesson on content needed for each day, but will primarily serve as a guide and facilitator as students drive their own learning. While projects will have standardized requirements, students will have the freedom to explore content in a variety of ways, which reinforces Create Academy's belief that learning does not happen separate from other knowledge and there is not always one "right" answer to life's questions.

While academic content is presented and learned through arts integration techniques, Create Academy students will also engage in project-based learning methodologies to showcase their level of mastery of academic standards. Actively engaging with academic content through collaborative unit projects allows students the opportunity to participate in and contribute to their own education, an important step toward lifelong learning. Whenever possible and appropriate, students will integrate social justice principles into their projects to connect academic content to relevant experiences in their lives. Ultimately, students will generate creative solutions to problems or injustices uncovered while studying academic content.

Grades 1-6 Instruction

Each of the core academic subjects will be taught integrated with an arts subject within all of their classes each day. There is extended time for reading instruction during grades 1-3 to

prepare students to be on track to meet Arizona's Move On When Reading requirement in third grade.

Each classroom will have 40 students and two full-time highly qualified teachers to facilitate and support student learning. Create Academy believes that collaboration is key to success in college and career for the 21st Century. For this reason, we intentionally place a larger number of students in one classroom to provide opportunities to collaborate with a diverse group of peers while maintaining a small student to teacher classroom ratio for support purposes. Teachers will model collaboration everyday, as they both are responsible for student learning outcomes for all 40 students. Teachers are given autonomy to decide how to approach instruction. At times, the class may be broken up into smaller groups, one teacher may pull a guided reading group for students below grade level, or teachers may guide student learning as they rotate to each small group to support the progress of a particular project.

Kindergarten Instruction

Kindergarten instruction will be similar to grades 1-6, with the exception that there will be 20 students in each classroom with one teacher. Projects will be developmentally appropriate for students. Teachers will have autonomy to structure learning in a variety of ways, as long as arts integration is taught in every lesson. Reading instruction in particular will be emphasized throughout the day during Read Aloud, Reading Comprehension, Literacy Centers, and Reading Acceleration to prepare students for success in future grade levels and to remain on track to meet Arizona's Move On When Reading requirement in third grade.

Grades 7-12 Instruction

Instruction in grades 7-12 will also be arts integrated with single academic subject, and each course will include project-based learning experiences, culminating in classroom presentations or performances. Teachers will have autonomy to structure learning in a variety of ways, as long as arts integration is taught in every lesson. Because of the singular classroom model, class sizes will increase to 25 students in grades 7-12 to maximize Create Academy's ability to impact additional students and to increase the opportunity for new students to transition to our school after completing sixth grade. While secondary classrooms will each have one main teacher leading all instruction and learning, the dual teacher framework will be partially mirrored in grades 7-12 in that teachers will have Student Teachers from a local, accredited teaching certification program, and parent volunteers (with appropriate Fingerprint Clearance Cards) as additional supports most days of the school year. The additional support will allow teachers to continue to offer differentiated, small group work, while also modeling two foundational beliefs of Create Academy: mentorship and collaboration.

Social Justice Projects

In two major projects a year, students will engage an issue specific to social justice or injustice. These projects will be driven by state standards and will be directly aligned to the knowledge and skills learned by students at that point in the school year. In keeping with Create Academy's mission, these projects will encourage students to address societal problems, explore their causes,

propose a creative solution, present their findings, and create or perform a piece of art linked to that specific issue.

Students, for instance, might explore the causes of the achievement gap and its impact on society. Depending on the student's grade level, the approach to this topic could be modified to support that student's specific developmental needs. In exploring that particular topic, students would employ critical research/reading, thinking, writing, and math skills in examining the historical development of the achievement gap, for instance, as well as its financial impact on society. Students could then, in the pursuit of knowledge or in an effort to educate the greater community, engage community members—through a survey, a conversation on Create Academy's campus, a public speaking event at a community center—and demonstrate their learning both through a formal presentation and an artistic representation or reflection. Through these projects, students will have direct access to knowledge that impacts their communities, as well as the support to cultivate purposeful solutions to the challenges they face on a daily basis.

Formative Assessment Strategies

Formative assessments will occur on a regular basis in each classroom within Create Academy in addition to using ATI-Galileo diagnostic/screening assessments. Teachers will be expected to use teacher-created formative assessments to check for understanding on a daily basis to ensure that students are learning and progressing appropriately. Co-teachers in the elementary setting will be expected to collaborate on these daily formative assessments that may take the form of exit tickets, individual white board responses, individual hand signals, or a variety of other strategies.

Create Academy will also use school-wide formative assessments to track standards based learning mastery at the end of each project unit. These assessments will be aligned to the curriculum, and school leaders will create the assessments using ATI-Galileo with input from teachers, who will receive blueprints of these assessments for planning purposes. The results of these formative assessments will identify each student's academic areas of need, and the teachers will provide intervention or enrichment for each student during the acceleration period in the day.

Alignment to Educational Philosophy

These assessment types and cycles align with Create Academy's core beliefs in that student achievement data will drive instruction. Data collected from assessments alongside teacher self-reflection will inform all teachers' instructional decisions.

C. Create Academy Summative Assessment Plan

Determining Mastery of Arizona State Standards

At Create Academy, proficiency for the purposes of grade level promotion will be set at a passing score of 70% on each standard. While a level of proficiency ensures students are meeting a sufficient level of understanding necessary for each standard, Create Academy believes that mastery showcases a deeper level of understanding, which we have determined to be at a score of 80% or above for each standard. Students will be expected to strive for mastery in all content

areas. Using summative assessments that are aligned to the academic standards and follow the curriculum, teachers will determine if a student has mastered the Arizona College and Career Ready Standards using a score of 80% or higher as our indicator.

Benchmark summative assessments will be administered three times each year to track student learning progress at regular intervals that provide time before the assessment to adequately learn content through projects. These summative assessments will be created using ATI-Galileo. Students in grades K-3 will also take the DIBELS literacy diagnostic and summative assessments to ensure that they are on track to meet Arizona's Move On When Reading requirement.

Create Academy teachers will be intentional about using data to drive instruction. After each benchmark summative assessment, teachers will have a day of professional development for data analysis purposes. Teachers will be expected to adjust instruction accordingly to meet individual student learning needs.

Additional Student Learning Assessments

Portfolios
In addition to standardized formative and summative assessments, students will also be qualitatively assessed with portfolios. These portfolios will be assessed using a rubric created through collaborations with teachers and administrators prior to the beginning of each year. Student work will be collected and assembled into grade level portfolios that will include an annual rubric and follow students throughout their educational career at Create Academy. This serves several purposes. First, it provides tangible evidence of student learning and achievement to the student, teacher, and parent/guardian. Second, it is exhibits summative progress data for teachers to glimpse the accomplishments of each student through previous assignments, projects, and other works-in-progress for the current year as well as in previous academic years. Another purpose of the portfolio assessments is to reinforce the idea that while standardized assessments provide rich data about student achievement, they are not the only indicator of student progress. Portfolios provide a qualitative complement to more traditional methods of standardized assessments, and it provides a well-rounded view of student learning. This aligns to our social justice mission by reinforcing Create Academy's belief that all content and arts areas are equally important to prepare students for success in college and career.

Presentation/Performances
Finally, students will be assessed in a combination qualitative-quantitative presentation/performance four times each year. These presentation/performances will have collaborative and individual elements, and will highlight a solution or response to a societal challenge. Each presentation/performance will incorporate knowledge gained from academic standards taught thus far during the year as well as creative skills gained from studying the arts. The presentation/performances may take the form of a public speaking presentation, a performing arts performance, a gallery exhibit with a public speaking component, or facilitating a community conversation. Teachers will use a common teacher and administration-created rubric to assess public presentation skills as well as content knowledge. Student peers will also evaluate each other for accountability purposes.

Alignment with Educational Philosophy

This assessment protocol is used to determine mastery and promotion aligns with Create Academy's Educational Philosophy because it compels students to work at high levels in order to achieve mastery, thus preparing them for the rigors of college expectations and professional expectations in their future careers. Our focus is teaching critical and creative thinking skills to address societal issues, and the combination of our unit projects and semester presentation/performances closely aligns with our mission.

Alignment to Instructional Methods

This assessment protocol aligns with Create Academy's instructional methods in that it holds students accountable for high levels of achievement, while offering them an arts integrated and project based learning environment. Students are able to exhibit understanding in diverse ways, using multiple intelligences. Collaboration with other students is inherent in our instructional model, as students must work together to accomplish projects, performances, and presentations. This collaboration is also modeled by the school leadership and teaching staff, who are consistently working together to integrate academics and the arts for a more holistic view of content and academic standards. Students will have a plethora of opportunities to work in groups to reinforce this important college and career preparation skill. However, students will also be individually assessed and given opportunities for acceleration through either intervention or enrichment activities based on their individual educational needs.

D. Alignment of Program of Instruction with Performance Management Plan

Create Academy's program of instruction aligns closely with our Performance Management Plan, especially Strategies I-III. From curriculum to instruction to assessment, Create Academy leadership and instructional staff will follow the Performance Management Plan to ensure the curriculum, instruction, and assessment procedures are implemented to support student achievement.