

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools  
Arizona State Board of Education  
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[www.asbcs.az.gov](http://www.asbcs.az.gov)

*Metropolitan Arts Institute*

CHARTER GRADE LEVEL AMENDMENT REQUEST

(Charter Holder Name) Matthew Baker & Patricia King (CTDS) 078906201

(Charter Holder Mailing Address) 1700 North 7th Avenue

(City, State) Phoenix (Zip) Az

(Charter Representative's Name) Matt Baker & Pat King

(Phone Number) 602-258-9500 (Fax Number) 602-258-9504

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**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:

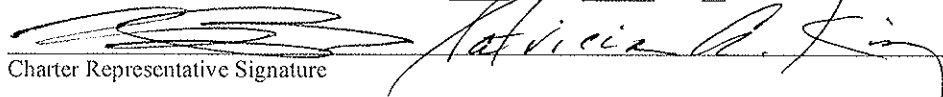
- Board minutes approving the change (minutes must comply with Open Meeting Law ARS §38-431.01)
- Rationale for decrease in grade levels served and effective date of change

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

**FROM: Grades 9-12**

**TO: Grades 7-12**

In witness whereof, Charter Holder has signed this contract amendment as of this 7 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

Narrative:

The Metropolitan Arts Institute is a performing and visual arts high school supporting grades 9-12 since 1998. We evaluate students through multiple performance-based tools.

Metro Arts is intended to serve as a toolbox for the artistic mind. Our purpose is to help students set goals, master techniques, and develop skills and self-discipline. Our experience is that students learn best when they are allowed to work at what they care about.

Our charter was founded on Howard Gardner's model of multiple intelligences in which the creative process assists in cognitive development and increases academic performance. The common thread is the goal of developing social, emotional, and intellectual abilities. It is our experience that this approach to growth and learning promotes a way of thinking and being in the world that is essential for life in this new century, and that is ultimately personally rewarding.

The new 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades will also be grounded in the same philosophy, curricular approach and ideals. The addition of these grades into our environment will give us the ability to impact our student population much earlier in the educational process in preparation for their high school years.

Our goal is to raise student achievement while reducing the amount of remedial work usually needed in our 9<sup>th</sup> grade population. The outcome will be higher test scores and a more cohesive and productive student body.

The 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum will include core academics as well as visual and performing arts courses needed for solid intellectual and artistic growth. The full curriculum will meet all of the Arizona state standards. The introductory arts survey courses will prepare students for the challenging arts curriculum they will encounter in their high school years at Metro Arts.

In conclusion, the addition of the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade is a natural development for Metro Arts. A junior high adds enormous opportunities for Metro to increase the overall achievement of the student body in both the academics and the arts. These grades also provide a needed outlet for families that have younger siblings who wish to attend Metro Arts along with their older grade 9-12 siblings. The growth of these grades is in direct response to the need expressed by our existing community for a quality 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade arts environment. In addition we believe it will assist us in achieving our long-term enrollment goals as well as the ability to sustain those goals.

## Mastery of Coursework:

### At what level is mastery achieved:

- Students with a grade of C (70%) or better in all coursework will be promoted in good standing. Students with a D (60%) or better in all core academics will be promoted with remedial requirements in grade 8 or 9 as appropriate. Students with a failing average (59%) or lower in all core academics will be required to repeat grade 7 or 8 as appropriate.

### Expected Student Performance on State mandated tests at all grade levels impacted:

- The goal of Metro Arts is that at least 90% of the eighth grade will Meet the standards in all areas of the AIMS test and 10% or more will Exceed. By beginning to provide our curriculum and philosophy to students in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade we will be able to prepare them to succeed in grade 8 on the AIMS state mandated test. In addition, we will be able to continue to improve our highly performing AIMS scores at the high school level.

### Timeline for Implementation:

- Pre-enroll 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades in Spring and Summer of 2009
- Classes begin for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> in August of 2009

### Changes in Staffing to support requirements for highly qualified:

- We will use the 7-12 Highly Qualified model standards for hiring for the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade because students will switch between academic subject blocks at mid-day. We will hire one teacher for Math/Science and one teacher for Language Arts/Social Studies (Humanities). Each of these two teachers will teach both a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade block. We will have one 7<sup>th</sup> and one 8<sup>th</sup> grade and the grades levels will not be combined. Arts electives will be taken each day after the two academic blocks to rotate between the visual arts, music, dance and theater. These arts classes will be taught by existing highly qualified staff as an additional course in their daily schedule.

**Meeting Summary  
Metropolitan Arts Institute  
Board of Directors  
October 9th, 2008  
2:15 pm**

**I. Call to Order**

Matt Baker called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm

Board members present: Matt Baker, Pat King, Dennis Mudd, Kimber Lanning and Kim Austin

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Dennis Mudd moved to approve the regular minutes of the Board Meeting on July 1, 2008.  
Kimber Lanning seconded and all approved.

**II. General Discussion**

Addition of a Metro Junior High, Grades 7 and 8:  
Kimber Lanning moved to approve and Dennis Mudd seconded. All approved.

Approval of AFR:  
Dennis Mudd moved to approve and Kimber Lanning seconded. All approved.

**III. New Business**

Matt Baker announced Pat King's retirement as of June 30, 2009 with consulting responsibilities through December 31, 2009.

**V. Adjourn**

Pat King moved to adjourn at 3:00 pm, Matt Baker seconded and all approved.