

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



PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION AMENDMENT REQUEST

(Charter Holder Name) Humanities and Sciences Academy of the United States, Inc. (CTDS)
078713000

(Charter Holder Mailing Address) 1105 E. Broadway Road

(City, State) Tempe, AZ (Zip) 85282

(Charter Representative's Name) David W. Curd

(Phone Number) 800-762-0010 (Fax Number) 800-762-1622

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.

- ↳ Changes in instructional methodology, and/or delivery that affects the emphasis, program of instruction or mission as described in the charter

Included are the following:

- Board minutes approving the change (minutes must comply with Open Meeting Law ARS §38-431.01)
- Narrative describing the change, the rationale for the change, and the expected impact of the change on student achievement

The Arizona State Board for Charter Schools and Humanities and Sciences Academy of the United States, Inc. (Charter Holder), herein agree to amend the terms of the charter contract as follows:

FROM: Humanities and Sciences Academy Arizona (ctds) 78713005 Technology Assisted Project Based Instruction Program (TAPBI) Grades 9-12

TO: Humanities and Sciences Academy Arizona (ctds) 78713005 Technology Assisted Project Based Instruction Program (TAPBI) Grades K-12 .

In witness whereof, Charter Holder has signed this contract amendment as of this 14th day of April, 2009, 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

TO: THE HONORABLE SECRETARY OF STATE
and THE CITIZENS OF ARIZONA

Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.02, the Humanities and Sciences Academy of the United States, Inc., hereby states that all notices of the Humanities and Sciences Academy of the United States, Inc. and any of its committees and subcommittees will be posted in the lobby area and on the North and West entrance doors, located at 1105 East Broadway Road, Tempe, AZ. The location is opened to the public Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., except legal holidays. Such notices will include the date, time and place of the meeting and will include an agenda or information concerning the manner in which the public may obtain an agenda for the meeting.

Dated this 13th day of April, 2009

Humanities and Sciences Academy of the United States, Inc.

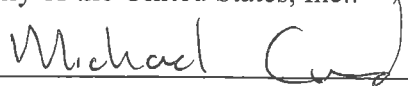
By: Michael Curd
Michael Curd

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING OF NOTICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the attached notice was duly posted at the Humanities and Sciences of the United States, Inc., 1105 East Broadway Road, Tempe, AZ on April 13, 2009, at 8:00 a.m. in accordance with the statement filed by the Humanities and Sciences Academy of the United States, Inc. with the Secretary of State.

Dated this 13th day of April, 2009.

Humanities and Sciences Academy of the United States, Inc..



Michael Curd, Secretary

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE
HUMANITIES AND SCIENCES OF THE UNITED STATES, INC.

HELD April 14, 2009

A public meeting of the Humanities and Sciences of the United States, Inc. was convened on April 14, 2009 at 12:45 p.m. at the Humanities and Sciences of the United States, Inc., 1105 E. Broadway Road, Tempe, AZ. Present at the meeting were the following members of the Humanities and Sciences of the United States, Inc.:

The following director of the Corporation, being all the directors were present:

David W. Curd

All members were present.

Others present: Michael Curd, Jeff Cohen, Ana Kennedy and Anita Cohen

The following matter was discussed, considered, and decided at the meeting:

I. Call to Order

David Curd called the meeting to order at 12:46 p.m.

II. Charter Grade Level Amendment for Humanities and Sciences Academy

Motion was made by Michael Curd to approve the Charter Grade Level Amendment change.

Motion was seconded by David Curd.

Motion carried.

III. Program of Instruction Amendment Request

Motion was made by Michael Curd to approve the Charter Grade Level Amendment change.

Motion was seconded by David Curd.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Dated this 14th day of April, 2009.

Humanities and Sciences Academy of the United States, Inc.

By: Michael Curd
Michael Curd, Secretary

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE
HUMANITIES AND SCIENCES ACADEMY OF THE UNITED STATES, INC.

Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the Humanities and Sciences Academy of the United States, Inc. and to the general public that the Humanities and Sciences Academy of the United States, Inc. will hold a meeting open to the public on:

Date: April 13, 2009
Time: 12:45 p.m.
Place: 1105 East Broadway Road
Tempe, AZ 85282

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- I. Call to Order (Chairperson)
- II. Charter Grade Level Amendment for Humanities and Sciences Academy
- III. Program of Instruction Amendment Request

A copy of the agenda for the meeting will be available at 1105 East Broadway Road, Tempe, AZ at least twenty-four hours in advance of the meeting.

Dated this 13th day of April, 2009.

Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Anita Cohen at 480.317.5900 or 1.800.762.0010. Requests should be made as early as possible to arrange the accommodation.

Humanities and Sciences Academy of the United States, Inc.

By: Michael Curd
Michael Curd, Secretary

**Humanities and Sciences Academy
Program of Instruction
To be appended to existing Program of Instruction**

Humanities and Sciences Academy delivers academically challenging instruction through one-to-one personal interaction in the classroom, small groups, e-mail, fax, telephone, the Internet, written communication and mail. Educational delivery also includes computer assisted learning systems, virtual classrooms, virtual laboratories, electronic field trips, electronic mail, virtual tutoring, on-line help desk, group chat sessions and non-computer based activities. In addition to the educational delivery methods outlined above, the K-8 program will incorporate a significant classroom component: students will come into a classroom setting one day per week. This is a unique alternative to classroom only and online only options. This hybrid approach will facilitate instruction, allow the students real-time interaction with their teacher and peer group, and enable students to make connections in a larger context.

The K-8 program, called Mercury Online Academy, will prepare students to excel in core subjects, develop strong critical thinking and problem solving skills and acquire an arts, humanities and technology background. The school will be led by visionary teachers and leaders who are committed to individualized education and a school-wide belief that all children will learn and succeed. Mercury Online Academy will deliver academically challenging instruction through one-to-one personal interaction in the classroom, small groups, e-mail, fax, telephone, the Internet, written communication and mail. Educational delivery also includes computer assisted learning systems, virtual classrooms, virtual laboratories, electronic field trips, electronic mail, virtual and in person tutoring, on-line help desk, group chat sessions and non-computer based activities.

The K-8 program is structured in each aspect for maximum educational impact. Thus, it:

- Will be fully aligned to Arizona's state standards in all subject areas.
- Is designed to emulate the research-based best practices in reading, math, science and languages curricula.
- Provides curricula in a context that uses innovative and effective instructional methods to include all students – and provides each student with an individualized path for personal growth and development.
- Presents social studies and technology in an innovative, integrated fashion that develops student self-awareness and self-esteem as it helps students grasp their place in history and the world.
- Reflects a clear understanding that children learn in a whole variety of ways and do best when challenged at an appropriate, individualized pace.
- Personalized to and derived from individual student goals and interests.
- Interwoven with real life opportunities that stimulate creativity.

The K-8 model is built specifically to the online medium and incorporates audio, animation and images to keep students more interested and engaged. It is designed to capitalize on the best opportunities that the online venue has to offer for both synchronous and asynchronous learning. It is capable of supporting the academic needs of a wide range of students, and it provides

excellent support for English Learners by combining words and images, as well as audio and visual content.

The K-8 program will incorporate a classroom component one day per week. The hybrid approach will facilitate instruction, allow the students real-time interaction with their teacher and peer group, and enable students to make connections in a larger context. The in-class instructional time will focus principally on Paragon®, an integrated social studies program designed by Mosaica Education, and other core subjects as they are integrated into the Paragon® curriculum. Paragon is designed to be highly interactive, teaches to multiple intelligences, and utilizes a wide range of instructional strategies designed to foster student participation and optimize learning. It allows students to learn about the history of great ideas and heroes in U.S. and world culture in a hands-on approach with integrated art and technology. This interdisciplinary world history curriculum that follows a student-centered, personalized approach to learning that combines constructivism with rich content and is fully aligned to the Arizona Academic Standards.

In addition to the existing 9-12 program, the K-8 program also intends to offer a full curriculum for students. The curriculum will be fully aligned with Arizona Academic Standards with a combination of vendor created and instructor designed materials. The proposed K-8 educational program pairs a core program devoted to intensive study of basic skills, and an arts and humanities program focused on Paragon® curriculum. Both sessions will incorporate service- and community- based learning activities for applied learning experiences. The proposed curricula are aligned with ASCD National Content Standards as well as Arizona state standards.

The following is an outline of our education program and curriculum. The times per day are meant to average out over the course of the week since the nature of online learning allows for varied daily schedules and the combination of the face to face day will allow for an in depth Paragon session.:

Grades K-8

- Reading/Language Arts--120 minutes per day
- Mathematics—60 minutes per day
- Science—60 minutes per day
- Paragon Social Studies—90 minutes per day
- Arts, Health and Foreign Language—60 minutes per day rotating (Arts include visual arts, music, dance, and theatre studies)
- After school remediation opportunities for all students who are not achieving mastery.

Detailed information on the K-8 curriculum to be used:

Reading

Mercury Online Academy will teach content-rich classic and multicultural literature in conjunction with explicit phonics instruction to develop reading skills in grades K-2 when children are making the transition from learning to read to reading to learn. The scope and sequence of basic reading involves mastery of "tool skills" in three areas. The skill areas gain in difficulty and spiral through the primary grades K-2.

Leveled books from the online classroom library will feature the blend of phonics and sight word practice essential for beginning readers. Beginning at grade 1, students will use a research-based spelling program that introduces them to spelling patterns and to high frequency, high-utility words they use most often in their reading and writing. The spelling program will develop phonetic awareness and will feature a video extension to engage students further in spelling and proofreading practice.

The literature program will use the "Shared Inquiry", or Socratic Method, as well as the multicultural reading selections that will be compatible with the social studies/humanities program. Both the reading program session and the humanities program in will employ an integrated interpretive reading and discussion program that will cover all disciplines across the curriculum. Interpretive activities will enable students to become more aware of their reactions as they read, develop sensitivity to language, value their own curiosity about a text, and explore new ideas through writing. Through the literature curriculum, students practice many reading and thinking skills: recalling and organizing details from the story, drawing inferences, analyzing characters' motives, and finding the main idea of a passage or the text as a whole. Literary selections will often tie-in with the historical period featured in the program.

Phonics

Mercury Online Academy will use a highly effective phonics program for K-2 students and phonetically controlled level classroom literary books to promote reading fluency and phonetic awareness. Phonemes are the smallest components of sound in language. As students learn their letter formations, they acquire simultaneously the phonemic rules that govern the spelling and the pronunciation of the English language. Mercury Online Academy is a strong proponent of teaching students the correct spelling at the initial encounter; saving time and frustration in having to relearn rules after "inventive" spelling patterns have taken root.

Writing

Students will write for a variety of purposes and projects. Some are daily assignments such as in online journals; some are short-term assignments involving very few drafts assignments based on a theme of World Culture in a historical context. Each type of writing is such as letter writing and project proposals. Still other writing assignments will be longer term and will be distinct from the others and involves discrete sub-skills in reading, writing, thinking, and listening.

Long-term thematic writing assignments will be either narrative or expository in nature. Expository research assignments usually focus on a body of knowledge in one of the subject matter areas such as literature, social studies, science, mathematics, etc. Material will be

organized around models of literary genre such as fables, folk tales, historical fiction, modern fiction, science fiction, poetry, fantasy, adventure, and mystery. Students will use elements of style unique to each genre as models for their own writing.

Mathematics

Mercury Online Academy will teach mathematics as a discrete program fully aligned with State and national content standards. The varied applications of math will be integrated into the humanities program in the session for additional practice and application.

Science

The school's science program will engage students in scientific inquiry by tapping into their sense of wonder about the world around them. Students will question, and then plan how they will find answers to their questions. This will lead to conducting investigations, which may take form as activities, research, reading or interviews with experts. Students will then reflect on what they have learned through their investigations and share the outcomes of their discoveries. The school's science program will completely align with Arizona state and national Standards.

Mercury Online Academy students will visit museums, conduct field research and visit research facilities. Working with naturalists and researchers will enhance student appreciation and respect for our ecosystem.

Foreign Language

Mercury Online Academy will treat foreign language as an integral part of the core curriculum, providing all instruction in the target language to simulate an environment of immersion. Foreign language instruction will start in kindergarten and build toward proficiency with each successive grade level. Communication will be lively and animated with vocabulary content tied thematically to the integrated curriculum. Multimedia resources (videos, children's books) in the target language will convey to students the cultural experiences of their peers in other countries. The school will cultivate the natural facility of younger students for foreign language acquisition by beginning at an early age with a high quality program. Students will learn the basic distinctions between alphabets, numbers and sounds of various languages.