

# Adding Grade Levels to Charter Amendment Request

## Charterholder Info

Charter Holder	Representative
Name: Liberty High School	Name: Colleen DeRose
CTDS: 04-87-50-000	Phone Number: 928-402-8024
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<a href="#">› View detailed info</a>	

## Downloads

 [Download all files](#)

## Current Grade Levels

### Current Grade Levels Served

- 9th Grade
- 10th Grade
- 11th Grade
- 12th Grade

## New Grade Levels

For each grade level being added, provide the following as a representation of a program of instruction aligned to the State's approved academic standards and to methods of instruction described in the charter. Please note that a separate upload must be prepared for each grade level and content area and be named as such. Additionally, applicants must restate the name of the file in the Brief Description box (e.g., First Grade Reading, HS Algebra II).

### For K-8

Language Arts & Math: A completed curriculum sample for reading, writing, and math for each grade level being added including all attachments as outlined on the required template and instructions.

### For 9-12

Language Arts & Math: A completed curriculum sample for reading, writing, and math coursework for each grade level being added including all attachments as outlined on the required template and instructions. Each course must align with the State's graduation requirements.

### Add Grade Levels

7th  
8th

### Curriculum Samples

 [Download File](#) — Eligibility Exclusion form

### Effective Date

07/01/2014

## Attachments

Board Minutes —  [Download File](#)

Narrative —  [Download File](#)

Timeline for implementation —  [Download File](#)

### Additional Information\*

No documents were uploaded.

## Signature

Charter Representative Signature  
Colleen DeRose 01/02/2014

**Liberty High School  
Board Meeting Minutes  
December 18, 2013**

**Agenda**

- Meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm.

**Roll call was taken:**

- Present:
  1. Robert Pastor--Chair
  2. Colleen DeRose
  3. Jackie Tretow
  4. Leon Garlinghouse - by phone
  5. Sara MacDonald - by phone
- Absent:
  1. Dallas Siler
  2. Jerry DeRose - proxy to Colleen DeRose

**Visitors**

- None.

**Approval of Minutes**

- 3. November 20<sup>th</sup>— Colleen DeRose motioned to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jackie Tretow. Passed. (6-0).

**Communication to the Board**

- All board member files are now current and all members are recognized by the Charter Board.
- BP shared info about a local board who offers support to small businesses and Charter schools.

**Call to the Public**

- Welcome to new LHS board member, Jackie Tretow.

**Director Report**

- Enrollment Count: 75
- Equalization: \$35,767.82
- See Report on separate page.

**Consent**

- Signatures.

**Old or Unfinished Business**

- Grade level addition application: vote to Board again after initial request for board updates---Board requirements are completed. The members voted to move forward with the application. Robert Pastor motioned to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jackie Tretow. Passed. (6-0).

**New Business**

- Enrollment Cap increase with grade level addition (25 students)--- Colleen DeRose motioned to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jackie Tretow. Passed. (6-0).
- 2013-14 Calendar--See Detailed explanation on Director's Report. Leon Garlinghouse motioned to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sara MacDonald. Passed. (6-0).
- Change January meeting date to 01/22/2014 to adjust for the Holiday-- Robert Pastor motioned to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jackie Tretow. Passed. (6-0).

**Executive Session**

- None.

**Personnel**

- None.

**Adjournment**

- Made at 4:50 pm. Colleen DeRose motioned to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sara MacDonald. Motion Passed (4-0).
- Next Board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 4 pm.

## **Amendment Request for Liberty High School: Addition of Seventh and Eighth Grade Levels**

### **Narrative:**

Liberty Charter High School in Globe, AZ has served the local community for 17 years in its capacity as a small school/alternative high school, maintaining adequate performance levels throughout its history. LHS' charter was renewed in 2011 for an additional twenty years. Liberty's letter grades are "B" for 2012 and "C" for 2013 (*highest letter grade for all high schools in our area*). The campus was relocated in July 2013 to a larger facility designed for school use with adequate classroom space for expansion of grade levels. In June of 2013 and again in December of 2013 (with updated Board member files) LHS Governing Board approved the potential expansion of the school to include 7th and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes.

#### **1. Stakeholder discussion of expansion noted following community needs:**

- District junior high schools (Globe, Miami, and San Carlos) have poor academic performance (D letter grades in 2013) and many parents have opted for alternative schooling for students, thus indicating the need for further educational choices. Evidence includes: **1)** Waiting list at the established K-8 charter, *Destiny*, for 7/8<sup>th</sup> grade positions with no plans there for expansion. **2)** The 2011 start up of a new charter affiliate for AZ K-12, dba *Inspired Learning Academy* which was then integrated into the Globe Unified School District in 2013 as an alternative K-8 program. As of the first quarter of 2013, parents have begun transferring out of the program citing poor curriculum (anecdotal evidence from parents). **3)** Current LHS parents have cited bullying, drug issues and poor supervision as well as academic concerns at local junior high schools. **4)** As final evidence, when LHS expansion was mentioned in local newspaper articles as a possibility in the future, our office received more than a dozen parent requests for enrollment for 2013.
- Evidence from district letter grades in 2012 and 2013 suggests that many students in the local area are not receiving adequate academic preparation, particularly in mathematics. It has been Liberty's experience that incoming students at every grade level are, with few exceptions, more than one grade level behind in mathematics and often in other subjects as well. We instituted in 2011 a required two year math program for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade to provide more student preparation time to meet academic standards as evidenced by AIMS testing. It is our belief that we could support that effort even further by having an earlier opportunity to reach students academically, namely, as junior high students.
- Our student population currently consists of 28% Native American; 41% Anglo; 28% Hispanic and 1% African American and 1% Pacific Islander from three closely linked towns in our vicinity. We project that those ethnic proportions will also be reflected among junior high students. We carry 15 to 20% ESS population, often unidentified until high school. Research identifies Native American and Hispanic populations at higher risk for poor performance and dropping out. We believe our smaller setting, individualized approach and commitment to student engagement may enhance ethnic student experience even more effectively beginning at earlier stages in student education, another argument for including 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> students at our school.

#### **2. How junior high expansion supports existing LHS philosophy:**

- Our Mission: “*Liberty High School is an educational community committed to academic rigor in the core secondary subjects which provides students with small class size, individualized attention, credit recovery options and decision making skills needed to freely participate and succeed in a rapidly changing world.*” Our mission reflects our belief that struggling or disenfranchised students need greater individual attention/coaching in core areas and often respond best in a smaller educational community where they are known, understood, and encouraged in personal responsibility as individuals. An expansion into junior high grades would allow us to better serve students who are dissatisfied or struggling elsewhere and propel them further academically at an earlier age. It is our hope that these students would then continue into our high school program, but even if they did not, they would be better prepared for high school curriculum elsewhere.
- Incorporating stand alone 8th/7<sup>th</sup> grade class rooms within our new facility is a matter of assigning a class to a room and providing the teacher. We have created a schedule to accommodate the greater instructional time required of junior high students and to reduce contact time with older students, providing some additional instruction from current high school teachers where needed/ possible. Transportation and meal provision would be adjusted to include additional students. *Our projection is a start up class of 10-12 students, perhaps as a combined 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> in the first year depending on need.* We have access at our new facility to additional classroom space for future growth. If student enrollment indicates increases beyond our current cap of 75 students, we will apply for a cap increase in a timely fashion.

**Proficiency level requirements:**

Student promotion from eighth grade and classroom credit	70% minimum average
(Failing grades are not allowed in average; students must have passing grades in every subject area)	
Credit transfer	60% minimum average

**Tentative Daily Junior High Schedule:**

8 am- 12:00 morning; 12:00 to 12:25 lunch break; 12:30 to 3:30 afternoon: Total of 420 minutes daily; Calendar of 143 days permits 1001 hours of instruction annually per ADE requirements. Extended afternoon hours may be scheduled for tutoring, recovery or attendance makeup. Please see LHS Board approved calendar for 2014-15 academic year inserted below.

**Charter Compliance:**

Liberty High School is financially and academically compliant with the Arizona Charter Board’s criteria and has no corrective action plans in place. We are in compliance with ADE’s Grants Management, the Arizona State Retirement System, ADE’s ESS Division and the Arizona Corporation Commission.

**LHS Board Approved 2014-15 Academic Calendar:**

\*9<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> Grade hours: 8:30 am - to - 3:00 pm 40 min lunch

\*7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade hours: 8:00 am - to - 3:30 pm with a 30 min lunch

# Liberty High School

August				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	
28	29	30	31	
4	5	6	7	
11	12	13	14	
18	19	20	21	
25	26	27	28	

September				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	
1	2	3	4	
8	9	10	11	
15	16	17	18	
22	23	24	25	
29	30			

October				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	
		1	2	
6	7	8	9	
13	14	15	16	
20	21*	22	23	
27	28	29	30	

November				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	
3	4	5	6	
10	11	12	13	
17	18	19	20	
24	25	26	27	

December				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	
1	2	3	4	
8	9	10	11	
15	16	17	18	
22	23	24	25	
29	30	31		

## 2014/2015 School Calendar

### Important Dates

Teachers Return Mon. July 28<sup>th</sup>

40<sup>th</sup> Day – Oct 21<sup>st</sup>  
100<sup>th</sup> Day – Feb 25<sup>th</sup>

### AIMs/PARCC Testing:

Writing: TBA  
Reading: TBA  
Mathematics: TBA  
Science: TBA

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter: July 28 thru Sep 25

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter: Oct 14 thru Dec 18

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter: Jan 5 thru Mar 5

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter: Mar 23 thru May 28

### Holidays:

- Labor Day – Sept 1<sup>st</sup>
- Columbus Day – Oct 13<sup>th</sup>
- Veterans' Day – Nov 11<sup>th</sup>
- Thanksgiving – Nov 26-27
- Winter Break – Dec 22-Jan 1
- MLK Day – Jan 19<sup>th</sup>
- President's Day – Feb 16<sup>th</sup>
- Easter Holiday – April 20<sup>th</sup>
- Memorial Day – May 25<sup>th</sup>

### Graduation: May 28, 2015

- - Beginning and End of Quarter
- - Holidays
- - AIMs Test Days
- - Intercession/No School
- - Oscar Upload/Attendance Dates

### Mission Statement:

Liberty High School is an educational community committed to academic rigor in the core secondary subjects which provides students with small class size, individualized attention, credit recovery options and decision making skills needed to freely participate and succeed in a rapidly changing world.

January				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	
				1
5	6	7	8	
12	13	14	15	
19	20	21	22	
26	27	28	29	

February				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	
2	3	4	5	
9	10	11	12	
16	17	18	19	
23	24	25*	26	

March				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	
2	3	4	5	
9	10	11	12	
16	17	18	19	
23	24	25	26	
30	31			

April				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	
		1	2	
6	7	8	9	
13	14	15	16	
20	21	22	23	
27	28	29	30	

May				
Mo	Tu	We	Th	
4	5	6	7	
11	12	13	14	
18	19	20	21	
25	26	27	28	

**Timeline for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Expansion:**

December, 2013..... Submit application to Charter Board  
.....Amend Charter to increase student cap

February, 2014..... Charter Board decision on expansion

February, 2014.....Begin 7/8<sup>th</sup> Curriculum development

February, 2014.....Begin HQ teacher search for 7/8<sup>th</sup> position

April, 2014.....Advertise for fall start up and begin  
Junior high student registration

June-July, 2014.....Prepare classroom(s), schedules

August, 2014.....Begin school with 7/8<sup>th</sup> students,  
. combined classes if numbers do not support  
. separate classes (10 per class)