
AGENDA ITEM: Replication Application – Anthem Preparatory Academy

Great Hearts Academies is charter management organization that provides curricular and financial support to a network of charter schools that operate at subsidiaries of the non-profit corporation. Anthem Preparatory Academy, a non-profit entity which has a single member, Great Hearts Academies, submitted a complete replication application for the 2010-2011 replication cycle. The corporate entity seeks a charter to replicate Great Hearts Academies-Veritas Preparatory. The school will be named Great Hearts Academies – Anthem Prep.

Mission Statement:

The mission of Anthem Preparatory Academy is to educate students for the lifelong pursuit of truth, beauty, and goodness. This mission is further developed in the school's mission: to enable students in grades six through twelve to acquire critical reasoning and communication skills and to explore the cultural and scientific achievements that are at the heart of the liberal arts. This school will prepare its graduates for college and to be leaders in creating a more philosophical, humane, and just society.

Academics:

The Great Hearts core curriculum establishes a course of study that is balanced between English, history, science, mathematics, language, and the fine arts. The curriculum is adapted from the Trinity model which has been refined to be non-sectarian and fully aligned to the grade articulated Arizona Academic Standards.

Anthem Preparatory Academy, has selected an instructional program which best delivers the content of its curriculum to its students and is closely aligned to its mission, philosophy and special focus. Anthem Preparatory Academy's instructional program has four main areas of emphasis:

Small Classes

The widely cited research review: The classic Meta-analysis on the relationship of class size and achievement (Glass & Smith, 1978) points to the correlation between small class sizes and academic achievement. A primary conclusion drawn from this material is that reduced class size can be expected to produce increased academic achievement and that the major benefits from reduced class size are obtained as the size is reduced below 20 students. The effectiveness of small classes is also reported in another study "The Long Effects of Small Classes in the Early Grades: Lasting Benefits in Mathematics Achievement at Grade 9" (Hedges, 2001), The study shows that with small classes, teachers can identify and remedy incipient problems among students at risk for low achievement.

A class size of no more than 20 students will provide ample opportunity for in-class interaction with the teacher. There will be a specific classroom for each subject and students will move from classroom to classroom during the school day.

Core Curriculum

The Core Curriculum is standard across the Great Hearts Academy network, ensuring that the approach is tested, comprehensive, and reliable. Anthem Preparatory Academy will use one of the most well known core curriculum concept which has four characteristics: (1) Solid: Although ideas come and go, there is a body of lasting knowledge that is to be taught to all children. (2) Sequenced: Children learn new knowledge by building on what they already know. (3) Specific: The course outlines clearly specify what is important in language/arts, history/geography, math, science, and the fine arts. This presents the answers to "what our children need to know". (4) Shared: This builds on the belief that cultural diversity depends on shared knowledge.

Socratic Seminar Method

The Greek philosopher Socrates was convinced that the surest way to attain reliable knowledge was through the practice of disciplined conversation, which he called dialectic. A Socratic Seminar is a method to try to understand information by creating dialectic in regards to a specific information source. The courses at the Academy will be taught employing the Socratic Method, which develops thinking,

speaking, and reading skills. It is incorporated within the curriculum as a method to increase student involvement. With the Socratic Method, students are actively involved in discovering truths, rather than being informed through lectures in class or readings in textbooks. The teacher’s responsibility is to create the right questions for discussion. Students find the answers within their reading and reflective activities.

Great Books

Although some lecture and textbook reading may be incorporated as part of some courses, the main focus of all classes is the Great Books program, where the focus is on shared inquiry and active learning of the Great Ideas as expressed in the Western canon. The teacher acts as a guide in this process, asking key questions that will lead the learners to individual and communal discoveries of information, concepts, and skills. The Academy believes this to be the most effective method of teaching, since through this approach the students are primarily responsible for their own learning. Such responsibility serves to both increase student interest in the topics studied and promote long-term retention of the material covered.

Great Hearts Academies have experienced the following academic success as measured by AZ Learns.

Veritas

School Year	AZ LEARNS	Adequate Yearly Progress
2008-2009	Excelling	Met
2007-2008	Excelling	Met
2006-2007	Excelling	Met

Mesa Prep

School Year	AZ LEARNS	Adequate Yearly Progress
2008-2009	Excelling	Met
2007-2008	Excelling	Met

Chandler Prep

School Year	AZ LEARNS	Adequate Yearly Progress
2008-2009	Excelling	Met
2007-2008	Excelling	Met
2006-2007	Excelling	Met

Glendale Prep

School Year	AZ LEARNS	Adequate Yearly Progress
2008-2009	Excelling	Met

Scottsdale Prep

School Year	AZ LEARNS	Adequate Yearly Progress
2008-2009	Excelling	Met

Market Analysis:

Great Hearts Academies -Anthem Prep plans to serve students in the area of Anthem and New River and provide a true high quality, rigorous college prep program in the area. Anthem Prep will have an open enrollment school of choice with no admissions criteria for grades 6-12. If more applications are received for available school seats during an open admissions cycle, the school conducts an equitable and transparent lottery at an announced public board meeting.

Anthem Prep will provide the community with an open forum through which the community can positively act upon the administration and the governance of the school to best serve the needs of the student body and the community at large. The Anthem and New River areas are part of with the Deer Valley Unified School District (DVUSD). The demographics for Anthem Prep are projected to be consistent with DVUSD.

The applicant provided the following:

Student ethnicity	DVUSD
White	77%
Hispanic	15%
Asian	4%
Black	3%
American Indian or Alaska Native	<1%

Student Subgroups	DVUSD
Students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch program	23%
English Language Learners	5%

Governance Structure:

Governance Structure: General Overview:

Anthem Preparatory Academy, like all other Great Hearts schools, is a subsidiary corporation to Great Hearts Academies, which is named as sole the corporate board member (parent corporation) in the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The Great Hearts Academies Board also approves annually the membership of the school’s boards. The charter representative for all the new schools is the CEO of Great Hearts Academies.

Role and Responsibilities of the Anthem Preparatory Academy Board of Directors

Anthem Preparatory Academy has a site board/*subsidiary* [501(c)(3)] in order to meet the Arizona statutory requirement that every charter school maintain a local governing board, which is subject to the Open Meeting Law, and acts as a local policy entity regarding matters of parent concerns, academy culture, and student discipline.

Anthem Preparatory Academy site board members will be recruited primarily from new parents and community members who have the expertise and passion to promote local school growth while still fully embracing the Great Hearts vision for reforming education across Phoenix. The site board members are also directors of the [501(c)(3)] subsidiary corporation.

The Anthem Prep board will implement the standard Great Hearts policies and advise the Lead Office and Great Hearts Executive Board, as necessary, on potential policy gaps, additions, or revisions. The bylaws of Great Hearts and of Anthem Preparatory Academy indicate that the Great Hearts board of directors is authorized to appoint and remove the site/subsidiary corporation board members at its discretion.

The Headmaster offers a monthly report to the site/subsidiary board and takes some local directives and interpretations from the board, based on the standards, policies, and handbooks established by the Great Hearts Lead Office, or based on local developing circumstances. Since the site/subsidiary board has a fundraising responsibility, as directed by the Great Hearts development staff, it also reviews and approves the monthly expenditures of the Headmaster in reference to the annual budget (previously approved by the board and authorized by the Great Hearts Lead Office). The site board reviews safety issues, campus life, and local discipline events such as student suspensions and expulsions. The site board also offers valuable input to the CEO and corporate board on the annual performance review of the Headmaster.

	Veritas Preparatory	Anthem Prep
Instructional Program		
Grade Levels	6-12	6-12
Special Emphasis	Balanced between English, history, science, mathematics, language, and the fine arts.	Balanced between English, history, science, mathematics, language, and the fine arts.
Methodology	• Trinity Model	• Trinity Model

Demographics		
Location	2131 E. Lincoln Drive Phoenix, AZ 85016	Anthem, AZ
Enrollment	338 students	Up to 308 students
Ethnicity	7% Hispanic 1% African American 88% Caucasian 0% Native American 4% Asian	White 77% Hispanic 15% Asian 4% Black 3% American Indian or Alaska Native <1%
Organizational Structure		
Authorized Representative(s)	Daniel Scoggin	Daniel Scoggin
Corporate Principals	Daniel Scoggin Jay Heiler <u>Andrew Ellison</u> <u>Bob Mulhern</u> <u>Karen Mercado</u>	Daniel Scoggin Other members TBD including one additional corporate member, one school staff, two parents, and one member of the community.
Governing Board	Same as subsidiary corporate board	Same as subsidiary corporate board

Suggested Motion:

Accept the Replication Application and grant the charter for Anthem Preparatory Academy.