

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](http://www.asbcs.az.gov)

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JAN 13 2011

ADDING GRADE LEVELS TO CHARTER AMENDMENT REQUEST

(Charter Holder Name) San Tan Montessori School INC. (CTDS) 07839000

(Charter Holder Mailing Address) 1475 South Higley Road

(City, State) Gilbert, Arizona (Zip) 85296

(Charter Representative's Name) Dr. Kristofer Sippel

(Phone Number) 480-222-0811 (Fax Number) 480-471-5990

**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.**

**X Adding grade levels served for charter**

Included are the following:

- Board minutes approving the change (If the body is subject to Open Meeting Law, minutes must comply with ARS §38-431.01)
- Narrative that 1) provides background and support for expansion; 2) how the additional grades support the philosophy, methods of instruction, special emphasis, and mission of the charter
- Timeline for implementation
- Proficiency level required for credit and/or promotion and credit transfer policies

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.

The Arizona State Board for Charter Schools and San Tan Montessori School INC. (Charter Holder), herein agree to amend the terms of the charter contract as follows:

**FROM SERVING GRADES: Kinder – 6th**

**TO SERVING GRADES: Kinder – 8th**

In witness whereof, Charter Holder has signed this contract amendment as of this 12th day of January, 2011, and the State Board for Charter Schools has signed this contract amendment as of this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, 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

*San Tan Learning Center*  
People, Process, Possibilities

1475 South Higley Road  
Gilbert, Arizona 85296

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Regular Meeting Agenda  
January 12, 2011  
4:00 PM

**A. CALL TO ORDER.**

Board President Sippel called the meeting to order at 4:07 P.M.

**B. ROLL CALL.**

Board members Present:

Board President Sippel  
Board Vice-President Sippel  
Board Member Sterzinar  
Board Member Wahlman  
Board Member DeAndrado

*Acceptance of Consent Agenda:*

Board Member Wahlman moved that the consent agenda be accepted as presented and be approved.

Board Member DeAndrado seconded.

*Vote:* Five in Favor, None Opposed

- C. OLD BUSINESS.** The Board shall consider any business that has been previously considered and which is still unfinished to include those items previously postponed or tabled. No member of the public shall be permitted to speak on these items unless invited to do so by the President.

*Discussion and vote of adding 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:*

Discussion: School administration has had many requests from parents to add 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade next year as their current 6<sup>th</sup> grade child has no school that they feel is appropriate for their child outside of San Tan. Board members agreed that there is a certain type of student that is use to San Tan approach to teaching/learning and that the need to increase grade levels is essential.

*The Motion:*

Board Member Sterzinar moved that San Tan increase the grades that are served by adding 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade beginning in the 2011-2012 school year.


Board Member DeAndrado seconded.

*Vote:* Five in Favor, None Opposed

- D. ADJOURNMENT.** The President shall at the conclusion of all items on the agenda, adjourn the meeting without the necessity of a vote.

Board President Adjourned the meeting at 5:45 P.M.

ATTEST:


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Kristofer Sippel**  
**Board President**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Rita Sippel**  
**Board Vice President**

San Tan Learning Center School Board Meeting Minutes Certification

I hereby certify that the forgoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the San Tan Learning Center School Board of the city of Gilbert, Arizona, held on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2011. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2011

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Kristofer Sippel**  
**Board President**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Rita Sippel**  
**Board Vice President**

***San Tan Montessori School INC. is requesting to increase grades served from K-6 to K-8.***

### **Background and Support**

Over the past five years San Tan has experienced extreme growth and has been adding a grade per year over the past three years. Now that we currently have 6<sup>th</sup> grade students the need has been brought to us from all of our current 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents as to what they do next. They have been actively pulling together to show their support for a San Tan Middle School. San Tan's governing board met Wednesday, January 12, 2011 and made their dream a reality.

### **How the grade level support the philosophy, methods of instruction, special emphasis, and mission**

San Tan Learning Center believes that organizational and personal philosophy guides what we do and influences our choices as educators, so it is vital that a school's philosophy is communicated, agreed upon, and monitored to assure that our actions/reactions are professionally appropriate/educationally sound in every situation/circumstance as educators.

The San Tan Learning Center's staff firmly believes that all students can achieve their fullest potential. The foundational skills of literacy are assured by a daily commitment to ensure this happens. San Tan Learning Center has implemented an educational delivery system designed to meet and exceed state standards at each grade. Key components of this educational system include strong leadership, focused professional development (including classroom observations and feedback), data-driven decision making, frequent monitoring of student progress, intense intervention for students, high expectations, relentless teaching and instructional strategies designed to heighten student engagement, Standards Based Research Reading and Math Instructional Materials.

The foundational philosophy that guides San Tan Learning Center's program is guided by the last 30 years of Standards Based Research, and insights derived from experience and education aimed at optimal child development and education. Illustrated below are the building blocks that make up the foundation of San Tan Learning Center's comprehensive program of instruction and curricular emphasis that guides our work with children:

- Visionary, experienced, and educated leadership that guides the San Tan Learning Center community with clear direction, proactive communication, and strategic planning.
- Educational staff full of integrity; possessing a strong work ethic and the desire to be lifelong learners.
- Inspiring an interest in education as the catalyst for a fulfilling and flourishing life through an educational program at San Tan Learning Center with many exciting opportunities to learn. This is accomplished by a prepared environment that is educationally sound and provides a fun school experience.
- Fostering respect for all people and things through modeling, role playing, clear communication, consistency in our expectations, and constant communication with families.
- Celebration of the process of learning and achievement through school sponsored family events.
- Present information so students understand the reason for learning. Allowing children of all ages to gain appreciation for the world about them by offering them the information and tools to aide in the process of discovery. Begin with the whole and then break it down into parts. For

example: In geography we will teach the children all the continents and then begin to study each continent in more depth.

- Focus on purposeful work as the key to help students become respected and contributing members of society.

San Tan Learning Center methods of instruction will be based on: Standards based instructional strategies, brain based research, multiple intelligences, and best practices. To assure each student is working at their cutting edge of mastery; students will be pre-tested using screening assessments and then will be assessed further through diagnostic assessments to ensure that they are placed at the appropriate level of instruction. Scaffolding instruction based on students' needs developmentally and academically will be emphasized allowing students to create pathways and organizational structures for learning and achievement. Student engagement strategies will be made mandatory throughout the learning process in each classroom.

### **Timeline for Implementation**

July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011

### **Proficiency Level Required for Promotion**

Students will gain at least one grade level per year in all core curriculum areas with 80% of the students scoring 80% or better on assessments. When student have achieved grade level mastery they are considered for promotion. San Tan Learning Center expects to promote students one grade level per year.