

Adding Grade Levels to Charter Amendment Request

Charterholder Info

Charter Holder

Name:
The Odyssey Preparatory
Academy, Inc.

CTDS:
07-85-61-000

Mailing Address:
6500 South Apache
Buckeye, AZ 85326
> [View detailed info](#)

Representative

Name:
Megan Olson

Phone Number:
602-663-2516

Downloads

 [Download all files](#)

Current Grade Levels

Current Grade Levels Served

- Kindergarten
- 1st Grade
- 2nd Grade
- 3rd Grade
- 4th Grade
- 5th Grade
- 6th Grade
- 7th Grade
- 8th 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


9th


Curriculum Samples

 [Download File](#) — This is the persuasion rubric for the writing sample.

 [Download File](#) — This is the AIMS testing data for the 2010-2011 school year. It includes how TOPA compares to local school districts, an independent evaluation of the testing data by the Charter School association, growth data for the 2011-2012 school year through the AIMS Web program.

 [Download File](#) — This is the predictive data for 2012. It is done through a national program called AIMS web. It was given at the beginning of March and predicts how a student will test if they were given the test that day. From this testing, teachers can see what they need to work on in the upcoming 6 weeks to make sure the students passed test.

 [Download File](#) — These are the reading and writing curriculum samples. The writing assessment was changed to 23/28 to reflect 80% mastery of the writing rubric.

 [Download File](#) — This is the revised math curriculum. The scoring guide has been amended to include an explanation of what types of partial credit will be given and for which problems.


Effective Date

08/20/2012

Attachments

Board Minutes –  [Download File](#)

Narrative –  [Download File](#)

Timeline for implementation –  [Download File](#)

Additional Information*

No documents were uploaded.

Signature

Charter Representative Signature
Megan Olson 04/26/2012

Board Meeting Minutes

The Odyssey Preparatory Academy

**This agenda was posted on www.theodysseyacademy.com on 2/22/12*

Pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of The Odyssey Preparatory Academy and to the general public that the Board will hold a meeting, open to the public as specified below. The Board reserves the right to change the order of items on the agenda, with the exception of public hearings set for a specific time. One or more members of the Board may participate in the meeting by telephonic communications.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02(H), the Board may discuss and take action concerning any matter listed on the agenda.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) the Board may vote to go into Executive Session, which will not be open to the public, for legal advice concerning any item on the agenda.

Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Mary Yanke at (602) 680-0967. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

Meeting Location: 6500 S. Apache Road, Buckeye, AZ 85326

February 23, 2011

Meeting Time: 5:30 p.m.

Chairman: Frank Yanez

Other Board Members: Mary Yanke, Megan Olson, Holly Johnson

I. Call to order

- Meeting called to order by Yanez at 5:30 p.m.

II. Roll call

- All members present

III. Call to Public

IV. Open issues

V. New business

a. Approve amendment of 9th grade for academic year of 2011-2012

- Yanke motions approval of amendment of 9th grade for academic year 2011-2012
- Johnson seconds the motion
- Unanimously approved

b. Acceptance of the AZ Charter Association report of our growth model from academic year of 2010-2011

- Olson motions approval of Odyssey AIMS 2010 and 2011 Data Analysis from Arizona Charter Schools Association
- Johnson seconds the motion
- Unanimously approved

VI. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Adding Grade Levels To Charter Amendment Request

The Odyssey Preparatory Academy, Inc.

Authorized Representative for Applicant: Holly Johnson

Title/Relationship to Applicant: Co-Founder

Authorized Representative Mailing Address:

6500 S. Apache Road
Buckeye, AZ 85326

County: Maricopa

E-mail: admin@topamail.com

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Amendment Narrative

The Odyssey Preparatory Academy

The amendment narrative below seeks to gain approval by the Arizona State Charter Board to amend the current K-8th grade charter of The Odyssey Preparatory Academy to include a subsequent 9th grade by satisfactorily discussing the following items: 1) The rationale for the increase in grade levels served; 2) how the additional grades support the mission, educational philosophy, and methods of instruction; 3) mastery of coursework and grade-level promotion (for K-8 grades only); 4) course offerings, proficiency level required for course credit, policy on acceptance of transfer credit, and graduation requirements that identify number of credits in each content area and electives (for 9-12 grades only); and 5) changes in staffing that comply with the Highly Qualified federal guidelines.

1) The rationale for the increase in grade levels served:

In 2009 the Founders of The Odyssey Preparatory Academy were awarded a charter to open a K-5 elementary school in Buckeye, Arizona. The original plan was to add a grade level every year through grade 12. Due to high demand in the community and a waitlist of 300 scholars, it was decided to request an amendment to the 2009 charter to add 6th grade for the 2009-2010 school year. We were fortunate to have the charter board expedite our application and amend it before we even opened our doors for the first time. In keeping with our vision to add a grade level each year, our subsequent amendments have been approved. The amendment to add a 7th grade was approved for the 2010-2011 school year as was the amendment to add an 8th grade for the 2011-2012 school year. In order to accommodate the more than one hundred current 8th grade Odyssey scholars, it is necessary to once more amend the charter to add a 9th grade for the 2012-2013 school year. In the three years since our inception, we have grown from 420 scholars to over 1,400 scholars. This growth has been based upon a re-enrollment percentage of 98%

at our K-8 Buckeye campus, a re-enrollment percentage of 99% at our K-8 Goodyear campus, and overwhelming attendance by our stakeholders in the Goodyear and Buckeye communities at numerous community informational meetings. In surveys given to current TOPA 8th graders, 84% have indicated the desire to continue their education at The Odyssey Preparatory Academy pending 9th grade amendment approval.

TOPA has made AYP every year of its existence. TOPA continually outperforms its district counterparts on all AIMS testing. The testing data and the NCLB standard of adequate yearly progress suggests that students in the Buckeye/Goodyear area will be better served educationally in a TOPA classroom than the local school district classrooms.

2) How the additional grades support the mission, educational philosophy, and methods of instruction:

The Odyssey Governing Board is responsible for ensuring the mission of The Odyssey Preparatory Academy is maintained. The Board also manages school policy and oversees the annual budget and auditory processes. Additionally, the Board measures accountability goals and objectives reporting all to the non-profit corporate board; who reports to the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools.

It is the mission of The Odyssey Preparatory Academy to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring scholars who work to create a more peaceful community through intercultural awareness, understanding, and respect. Our scholars will grow as part of a challenging environment that facilitates creativity and fun. Our scholars will be empowered to use their unique talents to become active, compassionate, lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, contribute to solutions. It is the philosophy of the Board of The Odyssey Preparatory Academy to prepare scholars, not just to get to college, but, to graduate from the top universities in the world and compete in the most competitive global economy to date. In grades K-8 current scholars at Odyssey work cooperatively and individually to develop creative problem solving

skills, common sense, wisdom, ethics, dedication, honesty, teamwork, hard work, how to win and lose, fair play, and lifelong learning. The Odyssey Preparatory Academy uses a variety of programs, curricula, and labs to create this culture of excellence.

Current programs that support the mission, philosophy, and methods of instruction at our Goodyear and Buckeye campuses, and that will continue on in the 9th grade, include block scheduling, required participation in band, foreign language including Mandarin, daily emphasis on physical fitness, uniforms, continuity of staffing, and a unified Scholar Responsibility policy. One integral part of the continuity in our mission and programs is the implementation of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (MYP). Odyssey is in its candidacy year of this implementation. Part of this approval process from the IB organization includes a plan for MYP scholars to have the opportunity to matriculate into the IB Diploma Program for 11th and 12th graders. Odyssey intends to apply for the DP program in 2014.

The Odyssey Academy will offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) program to provide a rigorous, inquiry-based curriculum based upon problem-solving. The IB program is a framework consistent with the holistic approach valued at The Odyssey. While there is an emphasis on subject matter scholars also work to develop character traits, skills, community service, and an International mindedness. Each unit plan will incorporate a driving question the scholars will seek to answer as they consider the content. In addressing the question scholars will apply such methods as experimentation, research, self-reading, directed instruction, cooperative learning, compare & contrast, reporting, and real world applications / perspectives / relevance.

The IB program is internationally recognized by universities worldwide as offering a rigorous course of instruction that prepares students for both university studies and for the global challenges current-day students may face. Such recognition is supported and validated statistically as IB students' acceptance rates are 20-30% higher than non-IB students. Additionally, IB Diploma holders have higher college admission scores, higher college-graduation rates, higher

GPA's in college, and many are also offered sophomore status upon college entry (IB, 2007). Consider the following:

- Universities consider the IB Diploma to be one of the most demanding secondary school curricula, offering ideal preparation for post-secondary studies. A student's participation in IB courses is, therefore, a very important consideration in admission decisions. It is to a student's distinct advantage to have completed IB courses, but especially so if the student is completing the IB Diploma. (College & University Task Force, 2009)

The Middle Years Program spans the 6th grade through 10th grades and is currently in place in grades 6 through 8 at both Odyssey campuses. TOPA has great confidence that this program will provide comprehensive support and consistency for our scholars as they make the transition between elementary, middle, and high school.

The proposed 9th grade curriculum will be aligned with the common core standards and the Arizona state standards and will build on the Core Knowledge sequence that is taught from Kindergarten through 8th grade. The math program, The University of Chicago School Mathematics Project, which is currently being implemented in grades 7 and 8, will continue to be implemented in 9th grade. This program is research based and provides a smooth transition from Singapore math that is taught in grades kindergarten through 6th grade.

The Odyssey's philosophical approach values the learning ability of each scholar, believes every scholar can be successful; and works to provide a stimulating learning environment that will engage and inspire students to reach their full potential. Additionally, each Odyssey scholar is expected to be a life-long learner while contributing to the local community through service and action. The importance of community service is an essential component of TOPA's K-8 program and is currently emphasized by such programs as Water Is Life and National Jr. Honor Society. Community service will also be a core component of the curriculum in the 9th grade.

Current Odyssey students are immersed in an environment of active, not passive, learning. Examples of this project-based learning are proudly displayed in every classroom on our K-8 campuses, and were recently demonstrated at a Core Knowledge Night where parents were given the experience being an Odyssey scholar first hand. These Core Knowledge Night(s) allowed over 1,000 parents to participate in everything from building pyramids from sugar cubes to becoming an interactive audience at a scholar-led performance of *Midsummer Night's Dream*. At Odyssey we firmly believe that students learn best by doing, and our 9th grade will foster this principle by facilitating a project-based approach to education. The proposed 9th grade curricula include opportunities for scholars to build upon these rich educational experiences by conducting a variety of hands-on labs, re-enactments and simulations.

The arts will be a core component of the curricula whereby each scholar's creative and cognitive abilities are nurtured and students are empowered to grow academically and emotionally. The K-8 Core Knowledge curricula of the Odyssey seeks to imbed the arts into each core concept presented, thereby engaging and stimulating scholars creatively. Building upon this foundation in the arts, the proposed 9th grade will allow scholars the opportunity to specialize in areas of strength and will give them the adequate prerequisite background to explore new artistic venues. This emphasis is built into the Middle Years Program of the International Baccalaureate program through the inclusion of a required Arts component.

3) K-8 Specific, not applicable

4) Course offerings, proficiency level required for course credit, policy on acceptance of transfer credit, and graduation requirements that identify number of credits in each content area and electives (for 9-12 grades only):

Proposed 9th grade course offerings are outlined below:

Language A – Grade 9: A writing-based course incorporating reviews, construction, interpretation, and expression of selected readings with an emphasis on proper elements of writing: grammatical development / construction, flow, transitions, and paragraph formatting. **(1 Credit)**

Language B: (*Choose one Language*)

Spanish – Grades 9 & 10: The course will be offered all four years and will be a continuation of the Spanish coursework completed in Elementary and Middle Schools. Scholars will continue to construct meaning and make use of the Spanish language in all aspects of communication. Hispanic Literature and Culture will be a prominent aspect of the course with written essays, oral presentations, and papers a part of assessment. Scholars will also be expected to Skype with “sister” classes in Mexico or another Spanish speaking country. **(1 Credit)**

Mandarin – Grades 9 & 10: The course will provide a foundation into Mandarin through speaking, writing, reading, and understanding Mandarin’s influence on a global scale. Mandarin is based upon the Beijing dialect and is the national language for the People’s Republic of China and Taiwan. Mandarin Chinese is the number one spoken language in the world by 15% of the world’s population. **(1 Credit)**

Global Studies – Grade 9: Development of Western Thought Through the Arts. Scholars will explore the development of Western ideas and practices through the analysis of primary documents. Primary documents will include art work, sculpture, music and literature. Scholars will investigate global questions such as: Why is government necessary? How does art express the human experience? Why is it important to record the human experience? **(1 Credit)**

Biology – Grade 9: A rigorous science course focusing on the major life processes, unifying principles and concepts applicable to all living things. Scholars will study such critical processes as meiosis, mitosis, genetics, and evolution. **(1 Credit)**

Algebra – Grade 9: UCSMP Algebra has a scope far wider than most other algebra texts, with mathematical topics integrated throughout. Statistics and geometry are settings for work with linear expressions and sentences. Probability provides a context for algebraic fractions and functions. Expressions, equations, and functions are described graphically, symbolically, and in tables. **(1 Credit)**

Geometry - Grade 9 or 10: UCSMP Geometry integrates, coordinates and transforms through, and gives strong attention to measurement formulas and three-dimensional formulas. Work with proof writing follows a sequenced development of the logical and conceptual precursors to proof. **(1 Credit)**

Pre-requisite: Algebra

Advanced Algebra – Grade 9 or 10: UCSMP Advanced Algebra emphasizes facility with algebraic expressions and forms, especially linear and quadratic forms, powers and roots, and functions based on these concepts. Students study logarithmic, trigonometric, polynomial, and other special functions both for their abstract properties and as tools for modeling real-world situations. **(1 Credit)**

Pre-requisite: Geometry

Photography: This film course aims to develop scholars' skills so that they become adept in both interpreting and making film texts. Through the study and analysis of film texts and exercises in film-making, the course explores film history, theory and socio-economic background. The course develops scholars' critical abilities, enabling them to appreciate the multiplicity of cultural and historical perspectives in film. To achieve an international understanding within the world of film, scholars are taught to consider film texts, theories and ideas from the points of view of different individuals, nations and cultures. **(.5 Credits)**

Music: A performance-oriented music analysis course. Topics will include medium, melody, harmony, meter, form, style, and cultural / historic context. Scholars will perform a variety of arrangements as a cohesive musical group. **(.5 Credits)**

Band: Scholars will continue their TOPA band experience by playing a variety of band instruments. Scholars will learn music theory and performance skills and will show progress in public performance venues. **(.5 Credits)**

Choir: Course designed to provide an atmosphere for the enjoyment, appreciation and performance of all types of choral music. The instruction and improvement of voice quality, intonation, ability to read music, ability to sight-sing, and the overall development of musicianship is stressed in conjunction with the learning of each piece of music. The Chorus performs at evening concerts and also at graduation and other special events. Attendance at these performances and dress rehearsals are a course requirement. **(.5 Credits)**

Introductory Art (2-D): This course gives scholars an overview of the basic fundamentals of design. It includes such areas as tools and techniques, media applications, painting, and graphics on art history developing aesthetic, imaginative, and creative faculties. **(.5 Credits)**

Dance Fundamentals: This beginning level course develops techniques and routines in jazz, ballet, tap and modern dance. Basic anatomy, biology, kinesiology, dance history and terminology are studied offering a holistic approach developing creative and analytical skills. **(.5 Credits)**

Setting the Stage (Theatre): Setting the Stage, scenography, stage design, set design and production design, is the creation of theatrical, as well as film or television scenery. The course will include theatrical production and performance. **(.5 Credits)**

Physical Education: The course will offer active participation to scholars engaged in various physical activities to include sports. The intent is to not only offer an avenue for physical activity but to also emphasize sportsmanship and teamwork. The course will also include the importance of physical fitness as a life-style. **(.5 Credits)**

Yoga: Yoga will be practiced using both forms of Vinyasa and Power. Scholars will learn and practice yoga poses as anatomy and breathing exercises. **(.5 Credits)**

Scholar promotion from year to year will be based upon meeting the standards for each basic subject area as identified in the course of study. In addition to these standards: test scores, grades, teacher-principal recommendations, and other pertinent data will be used to determine promotion. Scholars will meet the credit requirements by meeting the course requirements with a passing grade on each of the four core subjects and each of the elective courses. Standards that scholars must achieve in order to graduate will include accomplishment of the standards in reading, written communication, mathematics, science, and social studies adopted by the State Board of Education.

Scholars are required to satisfy 22 credit hours in addition to receiving a passing grade on the AIMS Reading, Writing, and Math portions to meet graduation requirements at The Odyssey. Scholars will receive 1 credit for each academic year they successfully complete a core subject (Mathematics, Science, Humanities, & Language Arts) – resulting in 16 credits. Four core subjects must be taken per year to ensure progression and concurrence of learning. For electives taken, the scholar will receive 0.5 credits for semester of successful completion – resulting in 6 credits. Three electives must be taken per year to ensure progression. To earn credit a scholar must complete the course

requirements for each course by achieving a 70% average or higher. Any scholar earning below a 70% average for a course will have failed the course and must repeat the course, if a core subject, or take an equivalent course for electives.

In the proposed 9th grade, high school credit will be earned when a scholar regularly attends and satisfactorily completes the requirements of a course. Additionally, core credit courses must meet the standards adopted by the State Board of Education where such standards exist. 9th grade courses taken elsewhere should correlate with TOPA courses and meet state requirements in order for weighted credit to be awarded. No credit transfers automatically. All transcripts are reviewed by The Odyssey to determine authorization for awarding credit, regardless of issuing institution, as measured against TOPA course requirements and descriptions in addition to state standards. It is expected that in the 2012-2013 school year there will be a limited amount of cases where the assessment of transfer credit will be necessary, as it is the primary purpose of amending the charter to include current students matriculating into the 9th grade from The Odyssey Preparatory Academy family of schools.

5) Changes in staffing that comply with the Highly Qualified federal guidelines:

Because Odyssey will only be adding one additional grade level every year, in keeping with the charter expansion plan lined out in the original charter, the hiring and staffing needs are small. Three current Odyssey 8th grade teachers are slated to matriculate to the proposed 9th grade as to ensure continuity and fidelity of implementation of current TOPA programs and philosophies. These teachers are Highly Qualified and certified to teach in their areas of instruction at the 9th grade level. In hiring prospective teachers, TOPA will only consider Highly Qualified and appropriately certified staff members for the 9th grade. It is anticipated that TOPA will need to hire 3 additional teachers to fill the 9th grade staff as some current 8th grade teachers will be retained at existing campuses.

