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
- 9th 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 Alegebra 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

10th

Curriculum Samples

Download File — This is the Algebra 1 curriculum sample.
Download File — This is the Advanced Algebra (Algebra II) sample.
Download File — This is the Functions, Statistics, and Trig sample.
Download File — This is the Reading and Writing 10th grade sample.
Download File — This is the Writing Rubric.
Download File — This is the reading assessment.
Download File — This is the 10th grade reading quiz answer key.
Download File — This is the revised Geometry sample. The assessment was re-done.

Effective Date

08/26/2013

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 05/21/2013

Board Minutes

The Odyssey Preparatory Academy

**This agenda was posted on www.theodysseyacademy.com on 3/4/13*

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: 1495 S. Airport Road, Buckeye, AZ 85326

March 5, 2013

Meeting Time 4:30 p.m.

Chairman: Frank Yanez

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

I. Call to order

* Meeting called to order at 4:34 by Yanez

II. Roll call

- Frank Yanez present telephonically, Megan Olson and Mary Yanke present, Holly Johnson excused

III. Open issues

IV. New business

a. Approval of the addition of 10th grade at The Odyssey Institute for Advanced and International Studies, 1495 S. Airport Road, Buckeye, AZ 85326 for the school year of 2103-2014
   - Olson motions to approve the addition of 10th grade at The Odyssey Institute for Advanced and International Studies for the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year
   - Unanimously approved

b. Approval of contracts for Matt Woods and Jenn Webber

- Olson motions to approve Matt Woods and Jenn Webber contract for 2012-2013 school year and future fiscal years; subject to Board review

V. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 4:38 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:

1495 S. Apache Road
Buckeye, AZ 85326

County: Maricopa

E-mail: admin@topamail.com

Daytime Phone: (623) 327-1757 Fax: (623) 241-9430

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-9th grade charter of The Odyssey Preparatory Academy to include a subsequent 10th 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 the 2012-2013 school year, the 9th grade amendment was approved to continue matriculating our current 8th graders through the Odyssey district. In order to accommodate the more than one hundred current 9th grade Odyssey scholars, it is necessary to once more amend the charter to add a 10th grade for the 2013-2014 school year. In the four

years since our inception, we have grown from 420 scholars to over 1,800 scholars. This growth has been based upon a re-enrollment percentage of 98% at our K-6 Buckeye campus, a re-enrollment percentage of 99% at our K-6 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 9th graders, 95% have indicated the desire to continue their education at The Odyssey Preparatory Academy pending 10th grade amendment approval.

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.

In 2011-12, TOPA 8th graders took the PSSAT to begin preparing for the PSAT and the SAT. Their scores were compared against college bound sophomores around the nation, we could not be more excited about the results:

In the Critical Reading Category

40% of our 8th grade scholars scored higher than 50% of all college bound sophomores nationwide

In the Math Category

45% of our 8th grade scholars scored higher than 50% of all college bound sophomores nationwide

In the Writing Category

40% of our 8th grade scholars scored higher than 50% of all college bound sophomores nationwide

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-9 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. Odyssey had their verification site visit the end of February 2013 for final MYP approval. The comments by the verification team for above and beyond what the founders could have hoped for. Final MYP approval is anticipated within the next 6 months! 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 is in the application phase of 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 9 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 10th 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 and 9 will continue to be implemented in 10th 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-9 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 10th 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-6 campuses and on our 6-9 new campus, 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 Caesar. At Odyssey we firmly believe that students learn best by doing, and our 10th grade will foster this principle by facilitating a project-based approach to education. The proposed 10th 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 10th 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. The Odyssey Theatre group was recently approved to perform "Taming of the Shrew" at the Shakespeare Festival in London this coming November. Odyssey will be the first Non-European school to ever be accepted to the festival!

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 10th grade course offerings are outlined below:

English III / IV - Grade 10: A continuation of English I emphasizing overall communication skills, oral and written. The student will be required to express thought with increased clarity, conciseness, and persuasiveness. Such will be expressed in class writings, assessments, and research-based papers requiring proper elements of citations, references, and formatting. **1 Credit**

Language B: (*Choose one Language)*

Spanish I / II – 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. Students 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. Students will also be expected to Skype with “sister” classes in Mexico or another Spanish speaking country.

1 Credit

Mandarin – Grades I / II 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**

American Government – Grade 10: This one semester course is designed to provide our scholars with practical knowledge and understanding of both our American and Arizona Governments. Relevance to life is imperative for scholars to connect with the democratic process as citizens of the United States. Scholars will be able to apply knowledge of the US Constitution and demonstrate their understanding of how the American system of government functions on the local, state, and national levels as well as the impact on individual citizens. Students order in our society. **0.5 Credit**

Economics – Grade 10: This one semester course explores the choices and decisions that people make about how to use the world’s limited resources. The goal of this course is to equip the scholar with knowledge that is strongly rooted in economic principles so that he or she will be able to differentiate between economic models, understand issues pertaining to global and national economics, gain insight into choices that businesses must make, and learn the importance of

managing personal finances and planning for ones future financial security.

0.5 Credit

Chemistry – Grade 10: Chemistry involves a comprehensive study of all matter and its many transformations. Students will gain a full understanding of Chemistry and its central role in science through the study of topics to include chemical bonding, chemical quantities, physical properties, periodic trends, quantum mechanics, chemical reactions, atomic structure, and radioactivity.
Required for Graduation **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

Functions, Statistics, and Trigonometry – Grades 10 or 11: The goal of *Functions, Statistics, and Trigonometry* is to present topics from these three areas in a unified way to help students prepare for everyday live and future courses in mathematics. Spreadsheet, graphing and CAS technology are employed to enable students to explore and investigate, and to deal with complicated functions and data. **1 Credit**

Graphic Design: Foundation of drawing illustrative matter for commercial

applications using various materials and techniques appropriate to the field of graphic design and illustration. Emphasis on visualization and sketching of concepts. **(.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: A continuing course for 10th grade 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)**

Theatre Arts: A continuing course for 10th grade with a focus on the design aspects, especially Set and Costume Design. The course will also cover stage movement, theater history, improvisation and acting, culminating in an end of the year performance.

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)**

Fitness Training: A course emphasizing various forms of fitness and sports education. Introduction to strength and speed training, agility, explosive movements whereby scholars participate in sports activities to learn and improve upon those skills and their benefits. **(.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 10th 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. 10th 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 2013-2014 school year there will 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 10th 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 9th grade teachers are slated to matriculate to the proposed 10th 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 10th grade level. In hiring prospective teachers, TOPA will only consider Highly Qualified and appropriately certified staff members for the 10th grade. It is anticipated that TOPA will need to hire 3 additional teachers to fill the 10th grade staff as some current 9th grade teachers will be retained at existing campuses.

10th Grade Amendment Narrative

I. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The Odyssey Preparatory Academy desires to implement 10th grade for its scholars beginning in August 2013. Thus, registration and course enrollment would begin in the Spring 2013 with Orientations and Academic Camps taking place in the Summer 2013.

Proposed Academic Calendar

First Day of School	August 19, 2013
Labor Day	September 2, 2013
Veteran's Day	November 11, 2013
Thanksgiving Break	November 25 - 28, 2013
Winter Holiday	December 20, 2013 – January 6, 2014
Martin Luther King Day	January 20, 2014
Spring Break	March 10 – March 13, 2014
Memorial Day	May 26, 2014
Last Day of School	June 2, 2014
Total Days of Instruction	144

A hybrid block schedule will be followed within a 4-day academic week; four extended days / school week. The schedule / calendar satisfies ARS§15-901 of 720 hours of instruction per year, 20 hours per week, offering 4 core subjects with the requisite minimum of 123 hours of instruction each per year: Language A, Mathematics, Science, and Humanities. Fridays are reserved for extensive, ongoing Professional Development and horizontal & vertical collaborations in addition to any warranted intervention for students as well as parent meetings. Ongoing, meaningful Professional Development ensures the staff receives requisite training to include content, instructional strategies, assessment, curriculum planning, IB, and technology to deliver quality instruction and effective feedback.