

Aquarian Charter School 2012 Application

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(a.) CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION FOR AQUARIAN CHARTER SCHOOL

Upon acceptance by the Anchorage School District, this application shall become an integral part of the Charter School Contract between the Anchorage School District and Aquarian Charter School, and shall be the governing charter for the school.

(b.) CONTACT INFORMATION

Cindy Hemry, Teacher Representative, Aquarian APC
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(c.) PROVISIONS FOR THE AQUARIAN ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE (APC)

The Aquarian Charter School Academic Policy Committee (APC) must consist of between eight to eleven voting members. Five to eight of the members shall be parents of students currently enrolled in the school. Parent members serve two-year terms and are elected by a majority vote of the parent population. Two of the members shall be a teacher under contract with the school, or one teacher and one teacher aide, under contract with the school. Teacher and Teacher Aide members are elected to serve two-year terms by a majority vote of the teachers or teaching assistants, respectively. One of the members shall be a board member from the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) as selected by the PTO and designated as the “PTO Liaison.” A community member, who does not have a student currently enrolled at the school, may fill one position. The Principal shall be a perpetual “ex-officio” member of the APC, but shall have no vote. See Exhibit A for full school bylaws. See Exhibit B for a listing of current APC membership.

(d.) DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Aquarian Charter School is managed directly by its Academic Policy Committee (APC), working with the principal. The APC is the primary governing body of the school designated to oversee and supervise all aspects of the school. The APC, upon delegation, shall assign to the principal the day-to-day management, financial records and accountability and other duties as assigned and delegated by the APC or as required by law. The principal must submit for approval or disapproval to the APC all significant policy, curricular and financial decisions that have a substantial impact upon the school.

General Powers and Duties:

The APC has the following general powers and duties, which must be carried out in accordance with the charter:

- Create policy.
- Approve and monitor the school's budget.
- Set and monitor goals and objectives for the program.
- Select curriculum/teaching materials that align with Aquarian Charter School standards
- Oversee implementation of Aquarian Charter School's program
- Ensure adherence to the school's charter and policies
- Hire, supervise and evaluate the principal in partnership with the ASD Charter School Supervisor.
- Participate in staff interviews and advise the principal on HR decisions, within the guidelines of ASD confidentiality requirements.

On an annual basis, Aquarian Charter School's APC in partnership with the school principal shall make a written report to the School Board and to the public. The report will be similar to the current requirements of other schools in the district under the School Report Card legislation.

Aquarian Charter School's APC Bylaws are attached as Exhibit A.

Aquarian Charter School's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) conducts fundraisers and supports the school's program through volunteer efforts. The PTO is a separate, not-for-profit incorporated entity that coordinates its activities with the APC to complement the school's mission. Aquarian Charter School PTO bylaws are attached as exhibit C. See a listing of current executive PTO members attached as exhibit D.

(e.) DESCRIPTION OF THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Mission Statement, Philosophy and Purpose of the program:

Mission & Philosophy

Aquarian Charter School is dedicated to creating a family centered, academically challenging educational experience that integrates the arts into all aspects of education. The program shall provide opportunity to children and their families to partner with educators to create a life-long love of learning. The expectation of our school is to exceed standard educational goals by creating a nurturing, joyful environment and by offering a differentiated educational experience that meets the unique academic needs of each child, in turn, providing children the opportunity to take risks and achieve their highest potential while becoming well-rounded individuals. At

Aquarian we believe life experiences enhance the educational experience and that learning to give back to the community is an essential part of a child's development.

Purpose

Our program is intended for families that want to be an integral part of their children's education. This includes, hands-on participation in all aspects of the educational experience thru volunteering at the school, academic support and partnering with teachers and school staff to identify children's distinct needs and strengths. Our program is designed to help children develop to their individual highest potential and to celebrate their achievements.

Program Highlights

Aquarian Charter School is a kindergarten through sixth grade school that offers a unique program within the Anchorage School District. Highlights of the program include:

- A rigorous academic program that meets and exceeds state and district standards in all core subjects
- Mathematics and language arts instruction given at the appropriate developmental level for the individual student.
- Families, students and teaching staff are partners in the child's education.
- Teachers motivate students within the classroom by using differentiated instruction and integration throughout subject areas.
- Each classroom utilizes teaching assistant support to enhance pupil/teacher ratio and support academics in the classroom
- Instruction that utilizes the multi-intelligences and brain based learning.
- Spanish instruction at all grade levels
- Integration of the arts across the curriculum
- A stimulating academic program with high expectations set in an encouraging, joyful and safe learning environment.
- Teachers continuously monitor and reassess skill levels to adjust instruction for each individual student needs accordingly.
- Classes may be multi-aged or single grade groupings.

Aquarian Charter School meets and exceeds all state and district requirements.

- Student achievement at all instructional levels is assessed throughout the school year using various performance-based assessments. Resulting assessments help school administrators make program adjustments set future goals to meet and exceed the state and district learning standards. Results are also used to determine the learning needs of each individual student.
- If students do not meet the minimal standards of proficiency set by these various assessments, their curricular needs are adjusted accordingly to help the child succeed. Also, if children advance, the instruction will be adjusted to create an ever-challenging educational experience.

- Aquarian annually reviews various methods of evaluation, including national and state standards based assessments (SBAs) to help set both individual and school wide goals for our program.

Students are leveled in language arts and mathematics according to individual mastery of standards rather than grade level.

- **Blocked Mathematics:** Each day, for 1 hour and 15 minutes, the entire school stops and moves to mathematics class. Students are assessed for their appropriate mathematics level using Saxon Mathematics placement assessments. As a result, during mathematics time, students attend instruction appropriate to their ability rather than their grade level. Placement assessment occurs on a continual basis during the school year whenever a child is identified as needing or ready to change levels to best fit their learning. In order to accommodate blocked mathematics, instruction is conducted by all of the certified teachers, including the specialist teachers, within the school. This allows the school to provide all the necessary levels allowing students to have homogenous grouping based on their individual mastery of standards. Aquarian uses Saxon Mathematics placement and curriculum and students are responsible, with facilitation by parents, for nightly mathematics homework.
- **Language Arts:** Language arts skills are assessed to determine proper academic placement within the classroom program. Students are assessed based on state standards and other accepted language arts assessment tools. Teachers are encouraged to teach using fiction and non-fiction “trade” books as opposed to a single adopted reading curriculum in order to better fit the needs and interests of the individual students and enhance thematic integration across subject matter. Annually, starting in Kindergarten, each student is required to produce an original published work of literature. The goal of the program is to introduce the creative writing process at an early age. Expectations of the completed product are adjusted as the skills of the individual child develop and are evaluated accordingly. The finished original work is bound and includes the child’s original artwork as illustrations and a cover.

At Aquarian, parents, students and teachers are all considered active partners in a student’s education. Consequently, it is expected that all of the parties engage in the following program expectations:

1. Students are responsible for their own behavior. Parents and Teachers are responsible for facilitating an environment that encourages independence, respect and kindness. Our program strives to provide intrinsic motivators as opposed to motivating by prizes or extrinsic reward systems.

2. Homework is assigned at each level with a goal to:

- Reinforce classroom instruction
- Develop good study habits and time budgeting strategies
- Foster self- discipline and responsibility
- Keep parents informed of student's progress.

Homework is expected to be completed and returned on a timely basis and is factored into the grade the student receives.

3. Open, honest and timely communication is a key aspect of the Aquarian student/parent/teacher partnership. Teachers continually inform parents about student progress, behavior and school events through multi-modal forms of communication; such as, classroom news letters, school news letters, regular parent/teacher contact in person, electronic and paper notes home, phone calls, the return of graded work and seasonal portfolio sharing. Each teacher also maintains a class website as a tool to communicate the happenings in their classroom. As part of our effort to be a green school, we encourage all contact that is not in person to be in an electronic format if at all possible to minimize our use of paper and ink.

4. We encourage parents to volunteer in the school as least 2 hours per month.

5. At Aquarian we feel that matching the just right teacher for each family is an integral part of building the student/parent/teacher partnership. Therefore, we do allow parents to request classroom teachers. The school administrator will make every effort to accommodate parent requests, however, there is no guarantee that all requests be able to be met. The school administrator has the discretion to place children according to educational or social needs over a specific parent request.

6. Aquarian's classrooms are inviting, safe and stimulating learning environments. We encourage the use of tables and shared materials when appropriate. We encourage student communication and collaboration in a respectful and appropriate manner. As partners in children's education, teachers are seen as facilitators of their classroom environment.

7. Frequent, relevant, age-appropriate field trips are used to compliment teaching and help make current subject matter more meaningful to students. Field trips provide students with the opportunity to see the world in action and are tied to curriculum. Parent volunteers make most of our field trips possible. Families are encouraged to actively participate in field trips.

8. Art, Music, Technology, Spanish, Library and PE are offered to classes each week. Specialist and classroom teachers collaborate to integrate thematic learning across the classrooms to create connections and make for more meaningful learning. Arts are celebrated in our school and seen as a vital tool in the development of the growing brain. Students are encouraged to explore their talents in these special areas.

9. Teachers embrace professional development that supports integration of the arts, thematic teaching methods and brain-based learning. Staff development typically centers on school-wide learning goals.

10. Seasonally, students prepare a portfolio of work to share with their families. The students self-asses and reflect on what they have learned that quarter. The portfolio is divided into core subjects and materials are added each successive interval. The resulting portfolio reflects the child's progress through out the entire school year and provides the teachers and family a venue to identify areas of strength and areas that need development.

Explorations

Each quarter all students are given the opportunity to participate in a "Day of Exploration." The teachers develop the exploration days and the focus of explorations has an extreme range. Topics can be scientific, technical, artistic, philanthropic or physical. Explorations are intended to introduce students to subjects they may not be familiar with or to help them develop a deeper understanding of an area they may be interested in. Students spend an entire school day in intensive, hands-on, activities dedicated to the particular topic they have chosen. Explorations are an example of Aquarian's dedication to utilizing real-world experiences, multi-intelligences and brain-based learning to allow students to realize their individual potential.

Description of the Need for the Program

Aquarian Charter School's program is widely accepted within the Anchorage School District community as evidenced by our consistent enrollment and long waitlist during the lottery periods for the past 5-7 years. The school is academically successful in terms of test scores on standardized tests and meeting Annual Yearly Progress (AYP.)

Goals

1. To maintain the success, integrity and uniqueness of our program within budgetary constraints.

Like other charter schools and the ASD as a whole we are striving to come up with ways to cover the ever-increasing costs of education. Our efforts going forward may include but not be limited to:

- Partnering with other charter schools to help shape future legislation surrounding charter schools.
- Exploring other revenue options, including expanded fee-based programs to be offered before, during and after regular school hours and the calendar year.
- Actively pursuing and monitoring grants opportunities.
- Collaboration with ASD to meet the ever-increasing demand for our program.

2. Continue to support integration of Social and Emotional Learning into our daily lessons for all of our school community (staff, students, parents, community members.)

The Aquarian philosophy includes the belief that a happy, peaceful learning environment is most conducive to life long learning and a strong sense of self. Efforts will be made to:

- Continue and expand arts integration into all areas of our curriculum.
- Expand our theater arts program to include more opportunities for student performances and studies.
- Continue to teach children to be empathetic, respectful and kind.

3. Be leaders in the ever-changing areas of science and technology and strive to incorporate this into our classrooms at all grade levels.

Integration shall support inter-personal connections and project based learning and shall not become a replacement for the human interaction. Efforts will be made to:

- Integrate science and technology into daily learning in the classroom.
- Evaluate and adopt new technologies as they become available.

4. Continue to be innovators in education by:

- Valuing creative, innovative thinking.
- Encouraging and supporting the use of new ideas in teaching methods.
- Supporting school-wide activities that encourage students to make discoveries, to develop skills and to discover personal passions allowing all students to excel.

Curriculum

Aquarian Charter School's curriculum meets and exceeds the ASD and Alaska State Standards. The subjects that comprise the curriculum are listed and briefly discussed below.

Language Arts

Our language arts program provides a holistic approach to instruction. Teachers utilize reading and writing workshops in their classrooms to facilitate language arts.

- The primary grades use programs such as The Daily 5, leveled, guided reading groups appropriate for the child's individual instructional level, and Fountas and Pinnell Guided reading practices. Teachers use poetry, reader's theatre, plays, word games, and writing projects in order to integrate the language arts into all areas of learning.
- Upper grades also individualize language arts learning to the appropriate level of the child. Students are required to do independent reading projects and are instructed in the 6

traits of writing. Daily practice of paragraph editing, grammar and the 6 Traits Writing is encouraged. Additional appropriate materials, aimed to integrate language arts into other curricular areas, are also utilized.

- Spelling is taught using the Scholastic spelling program through 6th grade level, followed by vocabulary skills, Word Wisdom, text for students who complete the spelling program prior to leaving our school.
- Each year, during the fourth quarter, students are required to produce an original work of literature. Teachers integrate the writing process into daily lessons and the students are given the opportunity to practice the writing skills they have been learning thru out the year. The children also produce original illustrations for the stories and an original cover. The expectations of the completed project are adjusted as the student progresses through the grade levels. Upon completion, books are bound and sent home for the student and parents to keep.

Mathematics

Saxon Mathematics is used for mathematics instruction through the 6th grade level. Saxon Mathematics uses an incremental approach to mathematics instruction, emphasizing continual practice of learned concepts. The Saxon curriculum emphasizes mastery of basic facts (appropriate to each grade level) alongside a solid program of instruction that teaches computation skills, problem solving, mental mathematics, and decoding and solving word problems that reflect real life applications. Algebra and geometry are integrated where applicable at each grade level.

For those students who have mastered the Saxon Mathematics k-6 program, our school has adopted the McDougall Littell program for pre-algebra and algebra. This program aligns with what is being taught in the Anchorage School District at the middle school level.

Science

Aquarian follows the ASD framework for all grade levels in science. The ASD science kits are utilized to form the basis for science instruction in our school. All students in our school are required to participate in the yearly science fair. For grades K-2, children participate with classroom group projects but are also given the option to enter their own individual project. Students in grades 3-6 **are required** to enter a project in the science fair.

Health

Aquarian uses the ASD framework for health instruction. The classroom teachers conduct health instruction. Teachers utilize The Great Body Shop materials in addition to other age appropriate materials for health instruction. Integration with other subjects is accomplished whenever possible.

Social Studies

Aquarian uses the ASD framework for social studies to guide its curriculum. We meet or exceed state and local standards for teaching social studies. Aquarian integrates social studies curriculum into the language arts and reading areas of curriculum, as well.

Our objects of social studies instruction include but are not limited to:

- Myself, my family, my community, my world (Primary grade emphasis.)
- Studies of community and our place in it. Including community service and awareness. We emphasize teaching our children to give back to their community whenever possible through community out-reach in multiple ways including but limited to annual giving projects, such as, fall food drive, clothing drives, local clean-up projects, and animal shelter support.
- Alaska and it's people from ancient to modern cultures
- World, state and local geography
- US History and how our government, economy and culture have been shaped by these historical events
- World History including ancient cultures

The Aquarian 4-6th grade classrooms supplement their social studies instruction using the Pearson Scott Foresman text. This text focuses on US and world geography, states, ancient civilizations, exploration, and colonization for 4th grade. For 5th grade, it emphasizes U.S. History from colonial unrest through the Civil War, and for the 6th grade, it focuses on civil war to present day.

Spanish

Spanish language instruction is delivered weekly. K-2 grades receive 2 hours/week of instruction from a native-speaking teacher's assistant while the 3-6 grades receive two hours per week instruction from a certified Spanish teacher. The focus of the Spanish Language delivery is experiential and highlights the culture, people, land and celebrations of the Spanish culture.

Technology

Technology provides students with computer skills that will prepare them for future employment. Children receive at least 45 minutes of technology instruction in the lab per week. Instruction focuses on computation and key boarding skills. The use of technology in the areas of research, writing and presentation is encouraged. A computer lab is available for use by the classroom teachers to help integrate technology into other areas of instruction.

Music

Music classes are taught by a full time, highly qualified music teacher and meet weekly as a pull out class. During these classes, students of all grade-levels are exposed to singing, instruments, notation and music appreciation. Students develop an understanding of music and it's relation to other disciplines. ASD music standards are followed and exceeded. Additionally, Aquarian supports, band, choir and other musical instrument instruction, such as guitar, as after-school extra-curricular opportunities.

Physical Education

Physical Education (PE) is taught by a full time certified teacher. The goal of physical education is to develop individuals who have the knowledge, skills, and confidence to enjoy a lifetime of healthy physical activity. Student activities help develop coordination, teach students to work together, introduce various sports as well as other personal training skills. Students receive 1 hour per week of PE instruction. In addition to our PE program, Aquarian students are offered a wide variety of physical after school activities including, but not limited to cross-country running, flag football, biking, cross-country skiing, gym hockey, martial arts, and dance.

Art

Art instruction is taught by a full-time, highly qualified teacher. Art instruction is delivered weekly and emphasizes the elements and history of art. Students are given the opportunity to work with various mediums and experience how art is a part of the world around us. Art instruction is integrated into classroom activities when ever possible thru collaboration between the classroom and art teachers. Local Artists are invited to share their talents when funding allows. Additional art offerings are given as after-school activities thru out the year.

Library

Library is taught by a full-time, highly qualified, Librarian. ASD library standards guidelines are used, met and exceeded by the Aquarian library program. Students receive 45 minutes per week of library exposure and are taught to locate and utilize data and information. Students receive a participation assessment grade for Library. Aquarian students are encouraged to use the library for both research and enjoyment purposes. Aquarian participates in the annual "Battle of the Books" competition.

Evaluation Procedures

- All students will receive a quarterly report card. With grading criteria O/S/N for grades K-3 and A-F scale for grades 4-6. Grades are based on individual achievement and effort in accordance to the State and local grade level standards. Aquarian's Grade Scale is as follows:

Grades K-3		Grades 4-6	
93-100%	O	90-100%	A
85-92%	S+	80-89%	B
77-84%	S	70-79%	C
70-76%	S-	60-69%	D
69% and below	N	59% and below	F

Aquarian currently uses the Zangle program in conjunction with ASD.

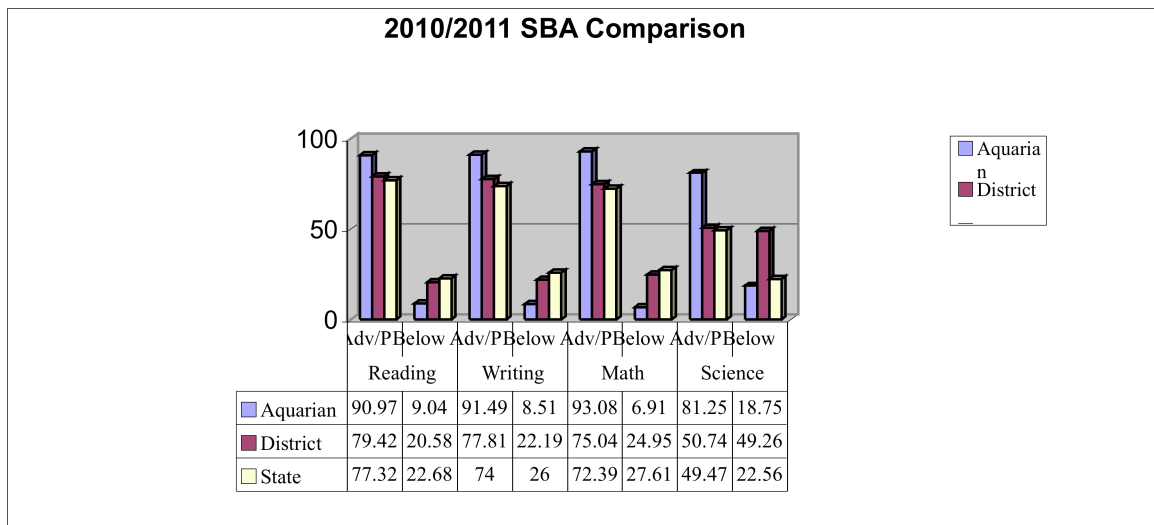
- All specialist classes, including Library, will be graded. Specialist classes use the O/S/N scale. Absences have a significant impact on performance in specialist classes and missed classes or excessive tardiness will be recorded as a zero by the specialist teachers. As a result, parents may request (with a minimum of 48-hour advance notice) make-up opportunities for any student who has a planned absence. For illness, Aquarian follows the ASD policy on missed work and make-up.
- Each student prepares a seasonal portfolio consisting of examples of their work in each subject and a self-assessment in each area. The teacher organizes a portfolio sharing time and invites each family to spend time reviewing and discussing the student's work. For kindergarten, the portfolio shares are held at least once during the year, typically in the spring. For 1st through 6th grade, portfolio shares are held at least three times over the course of the year.
- Aquarian currently participates in on-going assessments appropriate to our curriculum delivery. Assessments will be given throughout the school year to best meet the needs of the individual learner. These will be informal and formal assessments as well as yearly state standardized tests given to grades 3-6.
- Should any student fall below proficient in any core subject, goals will be set to help advance him/her to increase proficiency. Parents are notified when students fall below proficiency standards and are encouraged to help set the goals. If necessary, we may recommend that retention be considered when in the best interest of the student. Social promotion will not be encouraged at Aquarian.

Evaluation of Program Performance

Aquarian Charter School's APC, principal, teachers, parents and PTO are vested in the school's performance. Aquarian Charter School's Standards- Based Assessment (SBA) and terra nova test scores have been above the 90th percentile in mathematics, reading and writing for the past several years. Aquarian consistently meets Annual Yearly Progress (AYP.) See Exhibit E for Aquarian Charter School's 2010/2011 School Report Card to see full results of standardized tests.

AYP results for the 2010/2011 School year were met and exceeded. Aquarian had 100% participation in SBA testing for 2010/2011.

	"FAY"	# Proficient	% Proficient	Target	AMO Met
Language Arts	185	170	91.9	76.4	Yes
Math	185	172	93.0	67.1	Yes



Scheduling Requirements

- Aquarian Charter School's day begins at 8:30 and ends at 3:15. The kindergarten students are full day students. A sample of our daily schedule is shown in Exhibit F.
- Aquarian Charter School follows the ASD calendar including holidays and in-service days. Aquarian reserves the right to ask for modifications in order to best fit our program needs.
- The calendar for the 2011-2012 school year is included as Exhibit G.
- School emergency closures follow those of the Anchorage School District.

Special Education Services

Special Education services are delivered by using the inclusionary model of instruction. Because differentiated instruction is being delivered to all students, the academic needs of both gifted and learning disabled children can be met within the classroom setting with the support of both Special Education and Gifted inclusion specialists. All core curriculum areas will be level to meet individual needs and adapted regularly to appropriately challenge all students.

Aquarian employs a part time highly qualified Special Education teacher as our inclusion specialist. The inclusion specialist conducts IEP meetings, teacher training, and helps ensure that a student's individual needs are being met within the classroom setting. A student does not necessarily have to have a special education determination in order to receive the necessary remediation or in class services. Aquarian Charter School complies with the local, state and federal statutes regarding special education students.

Aquarian also employs a part time qualified Gifted Education teacher. The gifted instructor is responsible for administrating gifted assessments to students and for instruction of "enrichment" lessons to both those students identified as gifted and to all students in the school on an inclusionary basis.

Students are referred for gifted testing by the classroom teachers starting in Kindergarten. The Students that attain a 90th percentile or above score on one, or more, of the qualifying assessments are identified as gifted. Once a child has tested into the gifted program they will be part of the program for their entire time at Aquarian. Identified gifted students receive regular small group instruction in addition to classroom "enrichment" lessons. Because it is Aquarian's philosophy that all students benefit from enrichment and challenge, the gifted instructor teaches gifted lessons to all students in the school on a regular basis thru out the school year.

(f.) ADMISSION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- Aquarian Charter School uses the same calendar of registration as other alternative programs in the ASD. In addition, we offer early pre-registration in the spring to existing/returning families and entering Kindergarteners to our program.
- Kindergarten and first grade students participate in the ASD delayed start. Dates are consistent with the ASD calendar and allow for teachers to meet and assess students for proper and appropriate instruction.
- Aquarian Charter School follows the ASD lottery and enrollment guidelines per ASD policy. Lottery dates may be added if school and community needs require. A copy of our lottery form is attached as Exhibit H.
- Students who have IEP and 504 plans, lottery applications and admissions procedures at Aquarian Charter School follow the Anchorage School District Lottery School Admission Procedures for Special Education Students dated 8/7/2009. See attached as Exhibit I.

- Aquarian Charter School is strictly a “school of choice” and is 100% lottery for ASD students. Parents are encouraged to attend tours and “new-to-school” orientation meetings to be fully informed about the school’s program prior to their child attending the school.
- Each student’s mathematics and language arts skills are frequently assessed to determine proper academic placement within the program. Assessments provided by the publishers of the mathematics curriculum, nationally used language arts assessments, as well as SBA, RTI and other standardized tests are also used to determine appropriate placement.
- Aquarian Charter School will participate in the annual ASD Alternative Schools Fair.
- Enrollment policies, access to curriculum, services and activities of the program are non-discriminatory with regard to religion, language, physical handicap or national origin or children and their parents.

(g.) ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

Aquarian Charter School follows the Anchorage School District administrative policies and regulations as they apply to charters schools within the provisions of law and school board policy with the following exceptions:

- Aquarian Charter School may alter current district in-service days to enable and accommodate program needs. If applicable, this will be submitted in advance for approval to ASD.
- Aquarian Charter School requests the same waiver as ASD for the parent-teacher conference schedule.
- Aquarian Charter School employs a full time principal. Members of the APC may be given waivers of confidentiality to review appropriate principal personnel files for screening applicants prior to interview.
- Aquarian Charter School currently has no requested exemptions from current bargaining agreements, but the APC reserves the right to request exemptions in the future, should need arise.

(h.) FUNDING AND ALLOCATION AND ANNUAL PROGRAM BUDGET

Funding for Aquarian Charter School is based on the State of Alaska’s per-pupil funding formula, as per AS 14.03.260. In addition, the school’s funds may be supplemented by grants, fundraisers within the school community and additional funds (if any) supplied by ASD.

Fundraisers for Aquarian Charter School are coordinated between PTO and APC. Grants sought by Aquarian Charter School must relate to the program and must be approved by the APC prior to application.

Aquarian Charter School students are charged an annual activity fee, currently \$125 per year. The amount is determined by the APC and can be waived for families unable to pay. The fee helps sponsor student activities including field trips and Exploration Days. The money collected is deposited with the ASD as a separate "Fund 5" account or special revenue account and allocated through the ASD approved purchasing process.

See Exhibit J for The 2011/2012 School Budget.

See Exhibit K for the 2012/2012 Projected School Budget.

See Exhibit L for the Foundation Funding Formula for 2011/2012 and 2012/2013.

(i) METHOD BY WHICH THE CHARTER SCHOOL SHALL ACCOUNT FOR RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

Aquarian will be in compliance with AS 14.17.190 Restrictions Governing Receipt and Expenditure of Money from Public School Foundation Account. The charter school will account for receipts and expenditures by using and complying with district accounting, audit, and fiscal procedures. The charter school agrees that it will comply with local, state, and federal requirements for receipt and use of public money. Aquarian will allow district personnel or district auditors access to financial information to perform an annual or special audit of accounting information. The charter school will cooperate with the School Board and the Department of Education in complying with the requirements of AS 14.17.190.

To over-see the financial aspect of Aquarian Charter School, a part-time accountant/business manager shall be on staff and work in partnership with the principal and APC to ensure that accurate and reliable information is available to make sound financial decisions.

All leases, debts, and other financial obligations shall be those of Aquarian Charter School and shall not constitute a debt, liability, or financial obligation of the School Board or the District.

(j) LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF THE FACILITY

AQUARIAN CHARTER SCHOOL is currently located at 1705 W. 32nd Ave., Anchorage, AK 99517. The building is leased from the ASD. See the Exhibit M ASD Memorandum #364 (2008-2009) Aquarian Charter School: Rental Fee FY 2009-2010.

The current building consists of approximately 31,327 square feet. Student instruction areas include fifteen grade-level classrooms, a music room, an art room, a gymnasium/multi-purpose room which also serves as the lunch room, a library, and a technology lab equipped with computers for each child and a projection screen for instruction. Office and staff support areas include a Principal office, staff lounge, nurse's office, faculty workroom, and janitorial/ storage spaces. Currently three portables are on the School property. One houses a classroom and one serves as the office and instruction space for gifted and special education services. See the building floor plan attached as exhibit N.

Aquarian Charter School shall meet and maintain the federal, state and local building, fire health and safety requirements applicable to other public schools in the district.

(k.) TEACHERS/ADMINISTRATORS IN THE CHARTER SCHOOL

Being a well-established charter school, Aquarian is currently fully staffed with teachers that meet the district and state eligibility requirements and are certified "Highly Qualified Teachers (HQT.)" Teaching Staff for the 2011-2012 year are listed in Exhibit O. In the event that a teacher position becomes open, teachers will be selected from the eligible for hire list of ASD and must have HQT status. Teacher evaluations are performed in an equivalent manner as ASD under appropriate union guidelines.

Aquarian Charter School employs a full-time principal who possess a current Alaska Type B administrative Certificate, meets all ASD eligibility requirements and is in good standing. When it becomes necessary to fill the principal position, all candidates will be evaluated and the APC and the ASD Charter-School Supervisor will make a final selection in partnership. The hiring process is outlined in the Charter School bylaws (see Exhibit A.) All candidates are required to be on the ASD eligible for hire list for administrators. The principal is evaluated by the Charter-School Supervisor and shall be evaluated in an equivalent manner as other ASD administrators. Susan Forbes currently holds the principal position and has been serving as principal since 2003.

(l.) OTHER STAFF IN THE CHARTER SCHOOL

As budget allows, Aquarian Charter School shall employ the following staff (either full or part time) in addition to teachers:

- Teaching assistants
- Day and night custodial positions
- Accountant/Business Manager
- Administrative assistant
- School secretary
- School nurse

Aquarian Charter School shall honor all applicable bargaining agreements related to “other staff” positions. No specific waivers to contracts are being requested at this time. The APC reserves the right to request waivers in the future and shall follow the applicable policy guidelines, if deemed necessary.

(m.) PUPIL-TEACHER RATIO

For the School year 2011-12, the full-time equivalent of certificated personnel at Aquarian charter school provides for a pupil/teacher ratio of 1:18. Calculated as (# of full-time students/# full-time equivalent teachers = 385/21.5.) Aquarian utilizes teacher’s assistants in all classrooms, which makes the pupil/adult ratio for the school even lower.

(n.) NUMBER OF STUDENTS SERVED

The charter school proposes to have 400 students, divided into classes of 24 each in the primary grades and 25 each in the intermediate grades. Each class will have one certified teacher and we hope to maintain one part-time teacher assistant in each class. The 2011-2012 enrollment is 385. At date of application, the current waitlist for admittance is 663.

Aquarian will provide school district administration the names of students who have pre-registered as well as those on the waiting list for the charter school prior to the starting date of the charter school year.

(o.) TRANSPORTATION

Parents or guardians of students at the charter school shall be responsible for their student’s transportation to and from school.

(p.) FOOD SERVICE

Students will bring their own lunches and eat in the multipurpose room or classrooms at the charter school. Hot water and a limited number of microwaves will be available. Students will also bring their own personal snacks for a mid-morning break, as long as they are healthy food. To meet the needs of the school community, Aquarian may utilize an external vendor to offer lunches for students. The vendor must be licensed and in compliance with all applicable local, state and federal laws.

(q.) THE TERM OF THE CONTRACT

Aquarian Charter School shall operate under the Anchorage School District in the status of a charter school, as outlined by the State of Alaska and the School Board of ASD, for the period of ten years, beginning with the school year 2012-2013.

(r.) A TERMINATION CLAUSE

The School Board may terminate the charter school contract. The School Board shall provide written notice to the Academic Policy Committee (APC) of its intent to terminate the contract and the reasons therefore. Prior to termination, the School Board and the APC shall attempt to remedy the violations or other reasons asserted for termination.

The charter school APC may also terminate the contract on an annual basis. In such event, the APC must notify the District by February 1 of a given school year of its intent to cease operations the following school year. This date may be waived by action of the School Board upon a recommendation of the Superintendent.

(s.) CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE FOR RECEIPT AND USE OF PUBLIC MONEY

Aquarian Charter School shall comply with all local, state and federal requirements for the receipt and use of public money.

(T.) STATE REQUIREMENTS

(u.) OTHER REQUIREMENTS OR EXEMPTIONS

There are no additional provisions, waivers or exemptions being requested at this time.

CONTRACT BETWEEN AQUARIAN CHARTER SCHOOL & ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

The previous items in this document constitute agreements as to the description, philosophy, administrative policies, and budgetary terms between Aquarian Charter School and Anchorage School District.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Aquarian Charter School shall adequately protect against liability and risk. The program shall include safety training with all employees, and students, and purchase of insurance coverages as required by the Anchorage School district risk manager.

The level of coverage shall be defined by ASD.

Aquarian shall operate in such a manner as to minimize the risk of injury or harm to students, employees, and others. School operations shall be reviewed by the Anchorage School District Risk Manager for compliance with appropriate local, state and federal safety practices/codes and School Board policies.

BREACH OF CONTRACT

Failure to comply with the provisions of this contract is considered a breach of contract and may result in the termination of the charter school. During the annual review with the School Board, compliance with the provisions of the contract will be monitored. It is understood that if any allegations of noncompliance with the charter school contract, by the school or the school district, are presented either during the annual review or at any other time, then the School Board shall investigate these allegations. Any legal costs incurred as a result of an investigation of noncompliance by the charter school will be borne by the charter school. Any legal costs incurred as a result of an investigation of noncompliance by the school district will be borne by the school district. Prior to canceling the charter school contract, the School Board, school district, and the charter school shall attempt to remedy any violation of the contract.