

DRAFT (*UPDATED EXHIBITS ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE BUT WILL BE ATTACHED TO THE DOCUMENT WHEN SUBMITTED TO ASD AND DEED)-
AQUARIAN CHARTER SCHOOL (AQUARIAN) 2022 APPLICATION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

(a.) Charter School Name 3

(b.) Contact Information 3

(c.) Provisions for the Aquarian Academic Policy Committee (APC) 3

(d.) Description of Organizational Structure 3

General Powers and Duties: 4

(e.) Description of The Educational Program..... 4

Mission Statement, Philosophy, and Purpose of the Program:..... 4

Mission 4

Vision 4

Beliefs/Values (Philosophy)..... 5

Purpose of the Program..... 5

Description of the Need for the Program..... 8

Goals 8

Curriculum..... 9

Evaluation Procedures 11

Evaluation of Program Performance..... 12

Scheduling Requirements 13

Special Education Services..... 13

(f.) Admission Policies and Procedures 14

(g.) Administrative Policies..... 15

(h.) Funding and Allocation and Annual Program Budget..... 15

(i) Method by Which the Charter School Shall Account for Receipts and Expenditures 15

(j) LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF THE FACILITY 16

(k.) TEACHERS/ADMINISTRATORS IN THE CHARTER SCHOOL..... 16

(l.) OTHER STAFF IN THE CHARTER SCHOOL 17

(m.) PUPIL-TEACHER RATIO..... 17

(n.) NUMBER OF STUDENTS served..... 17

(o.) TRANSPORTATION..... 18

(p.) FOOD SERVICE..... 18

(q.) THE TERM OF THE CONTRACT..... 18

(r.) A TERMINATION CLAUSE..... 18

(s.) CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE FOR RECEIPT AND USE OF PUBLIC MONEY..... 19

(t.) State Requirements..... 19

(u.) Other Requirements or exemptions 19

CONTRACT BETWEEN AQUARIAN & the ASD 19

RISK MANAGEMENT 19

BREACH OF CONTRACT 19

Exhibits

Exhibit A Aquarian APC Bylaws

Exhibit B Aquarian Academic Policy Board Members 2011/2012

Exhibit C Aquarian Parent-Teacher Organization Bylaws

Exhibit D Aquarian PTO Executive Board Members 2011/2012

Exhibit E Aquarian ASD Report Cards, 2009-2011

Exhibit F Aquarian Daily Schedule

Exhibit G ASD School Year Calendar 2011-2012

Exhibit H ASD Lottery Application Form

Exhibit I ASD Lottery Admission Procedures for Special Education Students

Exhibit J Aquarian Budget 2011/2112

Exhibit K Aquarian Projected Budget 2012/2013

Exhibit L Aquarian Foundation Formula Calculation 2011/2012 and projected 2012/2013

Exhibit M ASD Memorandum #364 (2008-2009) Aquarian: Rental Fee FY 2009-2010

Exhibit N Aquarian Building Floor Plan

Exhibit O Aquarian Teachers and Staff 2011/2012

Exhibit P 2010/2011 Aquarian APC meeting minutes

(A.) CHARTER SCHOOL NAME

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

(B.) CONTACT INFORMATION

.., Chair, Aquarian Academic Policy Committee (APC)

1705 W 32nd Avenue

Anchorage, AK 99517

907-742-4900

[email](#)

(C.) PROVISIONS FOR THE AQUARIAN ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE (APC)

The Aquarian 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 teachers under contract with the school. One of the members shall be a 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. 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 is managed directly by its 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 shall assign to the principal the day-to-day management, financial records and accountability, and other duties 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 standards
- Oversee implementation of Aquarian'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
- Option to participate in staff interviews and advise the principal on HR decisions, within the guidelines of ASD confidentiality requirements

On an annual basis, the Aquarian principal, with the help of the APC, shall create an annual report in accordance with the ASD requirements.

Aquarian'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 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

With community support Aquarian Charter School strives to meet children at their level through unique instruction that values the whole child, academic excellence, and fine arts to create a balanced and rewarding learning experience.

VISION

Aquarian Charter School cultivates a creative community of lifelong learners and compassionate, engaged citizens.

BELIEFS/VALUES (PHILOSOPHY)

- A diverse and stimulating educational experience
- Meeting children where they are academically
- Each child as an individual
- School autonomy in curriculum and teaching methods
- Academic excellence
- Consistent exposure to:
 - Fine Arts
 - World Language
 - Physical Education
 - Health Education
- Identifying children's needs and strengths to guide their growth and help them meet their potential
- Inclusive school environment
- Celebrating growth
- Educational enrichment beyond the general curriculum
- Responsible citizenship
- Diversity
- Contribution to community
- Professional development and growth
- Family engagement and volunteering
- Partnership between educational staff and families

PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

Aquarian is a kindergarten through sixth grade school that offers a unique program within the ASD. Highlights of the program include:

- A rigorous academic program that strives to exceed 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
- Regular outdoor brain breaks are strongly encouraged at all grade levels.
- Utilizes teaching assistant support to enhance pupil/teacher ratio and support academics in the classroom

- Instruction that utilizes Gardner's¹ multiple intelligences and brain-based learning
- Spanish instruction at all grade levels
- Values fine arts education
- 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's needs accordingly
- Classes may be multi-aged or single grade groupings

Aquarian meets and exceeds all state and district requirements.

- Student achievement at all instructional levels is assessed throughout the school year using various formative assessments. Resulting assessments help school administrators make program adjustments and 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 assessments 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. Aquarian uses Saxon Mathematics curriculum, unless, after thorough consideration, a different curriculum is approved by the APC. Students are assessed for their appropriate mathematics level using placement assessments. As a result, during mathematics time, students attend instruction appropriate to their ability rather than their grade level. 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.
- **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 writing process at an

¹ Gardner, H. (1983). *Frames of Mind: The Theory of Multiple Intelligences*.

early age. Expectations of the completed product are adjusted as the skills of the individual child develop and are evaluated accordingly.

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-management 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.

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 newsletters, school newsletters, regular parent/teacher contact in person, electronic and paper notes home, phone calls, the return of graded work, and 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 ask parents to volunteer for the school the equivalent of at least two hours per month and that may look different for every family.

5. At Aquarian, we value family input in class placement as it is an integral part of building the student/parent/teacher partnership. The school administrator will make every effort to accommodate parent requests, however, there is no guarantee that all requests will 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 complement 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, Spanish, Library, and PE are specialist classes offered each week. Specialist and classroom teachers collaborate to integrate thematic learning across the classrooms to create connections and make for more meaningful learning. The fine 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 participate in professional development that continuously strives to improve and expand the educational experience of students.

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

Explorations

Four days a year the 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, physical, or play-based. 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, multiple intelligences, and brain-based learning to allow students to realize their individual potential.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEED FOR THE PROGRAM

Aquarian provides an innovative highly sought after program that encourages community and family involvement and cultivates academically successful, well-rounded students.

GOALS

1. Maintain a program that adheres to the vision, mission and values of Aquarian Charter School.

- Further define and strengthen focus areas and to direct needed resources (money, time, innovative solutions) accordingly
- Modify the charter as needed to address educational needs and concerns as they arise

2. Increase diversity throughout the Aquarian community and create a climate that promotes inclusion and diversity in education.

- Explore options and barriers for increasing diversity in our student body, staff, and community
- Use curriculum that honors all cultures and life experiences and actively encourage students' exposure to a diverse range of opinions, thoughts, identities, and cultural backgrounds
- Continue to embed empathy, respect, and kindness in the school culture
- Pursue diversity training opportunities

3. Continuously strive to improve and expand the educational experience through innovation.

- Support school-wide activities that encourage students to make discoveries, to develop skills, and to discover personal passions allowing all students to excel.

- Evaluate and adopt meaningful technologies and educational delivery methods as they become necessary or advantageous
- Explore other revenue options, including expanded fee-based programs and pursuing grant opportunities.
- Foster community partnerships to enhance educational experiences.

4. Work collaboratively with the Anchorage School District to facilitate planned and future improvements to our building and program.

- Investigate potential expansion and funding opportunities to gain further space to enhance the educational experiences and offerings of Aquarian.
- Continue to monitor Aquarian’s energy efficiency and efforts to maintain a safe, warm, and dry facility.

CURRICULUM

Aquarian’s curriculum meets and exceeds the ASD and Alaska standards. The subjects that comprise the curriculum are listed and briefly discussed below. Unless, after thorough consideration, a different curriculum is approved by the APC, the following curricula are used.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Our balanced language arts program provides a scientific and holistic approach to instruction. Teachers utilize reading and writing workshops in their classrooms to facilitate language arts. The following curricula are used:

- The primary grades use programs such as Heggerty, SIPPS, and Phonics for Reading. Other structures such as The Daily 5, leveled, guided reading groups appropriate for the child’s individual instructional level, and Fountas and Pinnell Guided reading practices are also utilized. Teachers use theater arts (such as poetry, Reader’s Theatre, plays, Tableau), public speaking, word games, and writing projects in order to integrate the language arts into all areas of learning.
- Upper grades use Springboard and also individualize language arts learning to the appropriate level of the child. Students are required to do independent reading projects, and 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 Zaner-Bloser spelling program at all grade levels.
- Each year 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 throughout the year. 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 at all grade levels. Saxon Mathematics uses an incremental approach to mathematics instruction, emphasizing continual practice of learned concepts. The Saxon curriculum emphasizes mastery of basic facts 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 McDougal Littell program for pre-algebra. This program aligns with what is being taught in the ASD 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. In addition, Project Lead the Way is utilized to provide STEM opportunities to students in grades K-6.

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.

SPANISH

Spanish language instruction is delivered weekly. K-2 grades receive at least 90 minutes and up to 120 minutes per week of instruction preferably from a native-speaking teacher while 3-6 grades receive at least 90 minutes and up to 120 minutes 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. Instruction is integrated within the classroom and focuses on the use of technology in the areas of keyboarding skills, research, writing, and presentations.

MUSIC

Weekly music instruction is taught by a full-time, certified music teacher. During these classes, students of all grade levels are exposed to singing, instruments, notation, and music appreciation. Students develop an understanding of music and its relation to other disciplines. ASD music standards are followed and exceeded. When qualified instructors are available, Aquarian supports after-school extracurricular music opportunities, such as band, choir, and strings.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Weekly physical education (PE) instruction is taught at least 45 minutes and up to 90 minutes per week by a full-time, certified teacher. The goal of PE 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. Aquarian students get an additional opportunity for exercise through Brain Breaks; when weather permits, these are held outside. In addition to our PE program, when qualified instructors are available, Aquarian students are offered a wide variety of other physical after-school activities including, but not limited to, JNYO, ice skating, cross-country running, flag football, biking, cross-country skiing, gym hockey, martial arts, and dance.

ART

Weekly art instruction is taught by a full-time, certified teacher. Art instruction 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 whenever possible through 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 throughout the year.

LIBRARY

Students will receive a minimum of 45 minutes of weekly library instruction, taught by a full-time, certified librarian. ASD library standards are used, met, and exceeded by the Aquarian library program. Students are taught to locate and utilize data and information. Aquarian students are encouraged to use the library for both research and enjoyment purposes. Aquarian participates in the annual "Battle of the Books" competition. The Aquarian library strives to provide a diverse and multi-cultural selection of authors and topics to enhance a broader appreciation of literature.

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 with the state and local grade level standards. Aquarian uses the ASD grading scale and reporting system.
- Specialist classes use the O/S/N scale. Parents may request (with a minimum of 48-hour advance notice) make-up opportunities for any student who has a planned absence. Excessive absences or tardiness have a significant impact on performance in specialist classes. Make-up work may be required to achieve a full grade. For illness, Aquarian follows the ASD policy on missed work and make-up work.
- Students prepare a portfolio of work to share with their families. The students self-assess and reflect on what they have learned. The portfolio is divided into core subjects and materials are added each successive interval. The resulting portfolio reflects the child's progress throughout the entire school year and provides the teachers and family a venue to identify areas of strength and areas that need development. For kindergarten, the portfolio shares are held at least once during

the year, typically in the spring. For first through sixth grade, portfolio shares are held at least two times over the course of the year.

- Aquarian currently participates in ongoing 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 annual state standardized tests given to grades third through sixth.
- 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.

EVALUATION OF PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Aquarian’s APC, principal, teachers, parents, and PTO are vested in the school’s performance. Aquarian’s previous state assessment scores show that 70% of our students score above the fiftieth percentile in reading, and 68% of our students score above the fiftieth percentile in math.

Test Year: 2018-2019 | Season: Spring | Subject: Mathematics | Division: Elementar... | School: Aquarian Char... | Grade: (All) | Ethnicity: (All)

68.78% [152]
 % and number of students above 50 percentile

221
 Number Tested Students



Percent and number students by grade level and quintile in Mathematics for Spring season
 When multiple seasons are selected, students will be counted under each bin when they have different percentile scores.

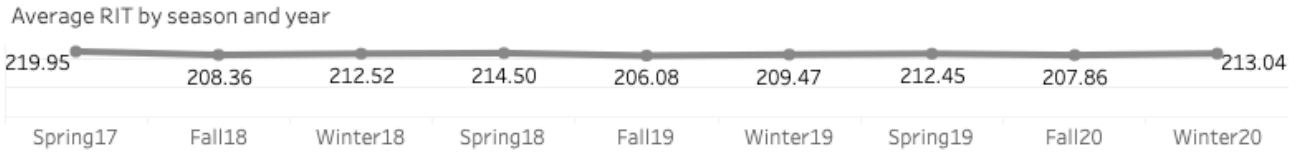
TestGrade	Lo	LoAvg	Avg	HiAvg	Hi
Grade 2	7.69% [1]	7.69% [1]	46.15% [6]	15.38% [2]	23.08% [3]
Grade 3	14.81% [8]	29.63% [16]	20.37% [11]	16.67% [9]	18.52% [10]
Grade 4	7.14% [4]	12.50% [7]	25.00% [14]	28.57% [16]	26.79% [15]
Grade 5		11.76% [6]	27.45% [14]	19.61% [10]	41.18% [21]
Grade 6	6.38% [3]	12.77% [6]	14.89% [7]	36.17% [17]	29.79% [14]

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Test Year: 2018-2019 | Season: Spring | Subject: Reading | Division: Elementar... | School: Aquarian Char... | Grade: (All) | Ethnicity: (All)

70.91% [156] % and number of students above 50 percentile | **220** Number Tested Students



Percent and number students by grade level and quintile in Reading for Spring season
 When multiple seasons are selected, students will be counted under each bin when they have different percentile scores.

TestGrade	Lo	LoAvg	Avg	HiAvg	Hi
Grade 2	8.33% [1]	8.33% [1]	8.33% [1]	33.33% [4]	41.67% [5]
Grade 3	14.81% [8]	18.52% [10]	25.93% [14]	22.22% [12]	18.52% [10]
Grade 4	8.93% [5]	19.64% [11]	14.29% [8]	28.57% [16]	28.57% [16]
Grade 5	1.96% [1]	15.69% [8]	11.76% [6]	39.22% [20]	33.33% [17]
Grade 6	4.26% [2]	10.64% [5]	19.15% [9]	31.91% [15]	34.04% [16]

Date updated: 2/2/2021 8:01:11 PM



SCHEDULING REQUIREMENTS

- Aquarian’s day begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 3:15 p.m.. The kindergarten students are full day students. A sample of our daily schedule is shown in Exhibit F.
- Aquarian follows the ASD calendar including holidays. In-service days are on a modified schedule. Aquarian reserves the right to ask for modifications in order to best fit our program needs.
- The calendar for the 2022-2023 school year is included as Exhibit G.
- School emergency closures follow those of the ASD.

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 leveled to meet individual needs and adapted regularly to appropriately challenge all students.

Aquarian employs at least one certified special education teacher as our inclusion specialist depending on need. The inclusion specialist conducts Individualized Education Plan (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 need a special education determination in order to receive the necessary remediation or in class services. Aquarian complies with the local, state, and federal statutes regarding special education students.

Aquarian also employs a qualified gifted education teacher. Because it is Aquarian's philosophy that all students benefit from enrichment and challenge, the gifted instructor teaches lessons to all students in the school on a regular basis throughout the school year and may provide additional opportunities.

(F.) ADMISSION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- Aquarian uses the same calendar of registration as other alternative programs in the ASD.
- Kindergarten 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 placement.
- Aquarian follows the ASD online lottery and enrollment guidelines per ASD policy. Lottery dates may be added if school and community needs require.
- Students who have IEP and 504 plans follow the ASD Lottery School Admission Procedures for Special Education Students dated 8/7/2009. See attached as Exhibit I.
- Aquarian 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 MAP, RTI, and other standardized tests are also used to determine appropriate placement.
- Aquarian will participate in the annual ASD Alternative Schools Fair. Community outreach will occur to encourage a diverse pool of lottery applicants.
- Enrollment policies, access to curriculum, services, and activities of the program are non-discriminatory with regard to religion, language, physical handicap, and national origin of children or their parents.

(G.) ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

Aquarian follows the ASD administrative policies and regulations as they apply to charter schools within the provisions of law and school board policy with the following exceptions:

- Aquarian may alter current district in-service days to enable and accommodate program needs. If applicable, this will be submitted in advance for approval to the ASD.
- Aquarian requests the same waiver as the ASD for the parent-teacher conference schedule.
- Aquarian 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 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 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 the ASD. Fundraisers for Aquarian are coordinated between PTO and APC. Grants sought by Aquarian must relate to the program and must be approved by the APC prior to application.

Aquarian 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 2021/2022 School Budget.

See Exhibit K for the 2021/2022 Projected School Budget.

See Exhibit L for the Foundation Funding Formula for 2021/2022 and 2022/2023.

(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 oversee the financial aspect of Aquarian, the principal and APC will work together 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 and shall not constitute a debt, liability, or financial obligation of the School Board or the ASD.

(J) LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF THE FACILITY

AQUARIAN 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: Rental Fee FY 2009-2010.

The current building consists of approximately 31,327 square feet. Student instruction areas include fifteen grade-level classrooms, an art room, a multi-purpose room, a special education classroom, and a library. Office and staff support areas include a principal's office, staff lounge, nurse's office, faculty workroom, and janitorial/storage spaces. Currently three portables are on the school property, housing a music classroom, a Spanish classroom, and a general education classroom. See the building floor plan attached as Exhibit N.

Aquarian 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. Teaching Staff for the 2021-2022 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 the ASD. Teacher evaluations are performed in accordance with the ASD and contractual guidelines.

Aquarian employs a full-time principal who possesses 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 will make a final selection in partnership with the ASD charter school supervisor. The hiring process is outlined in Aquarian's 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. Brittany Nerland currently holds the principal position and has been serving as principal

since 2019.

(L.) OTHER STAFF IN THE CHARTER SCHOOL

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

- Teaching assistants
- Day and night custodial positions
- Accountant/business manager
- Administrative assistant
- School secretary
- School nurse

Aquarian 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 2021-22, the full-time equivalent of certificated personnel at Aquarian provides for a pupil/teacher ratio of 1:17. Calculated as (number of full-time students/number of full-time equivalent teachers = 384/16.7.) Aquarian utilizes teaching 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 approximately 385 students, divided into classes of approximately 24 each in the primary grades and approximately 25 each in the intermediate grades. Each class will have one certified teacher and ideally one part-time teaching assistant. The 2020-2021 enrollment is 383 students. At date of application, the current waitlist for admittance is 605 students.

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 Aquarian 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 multi-purpose room or classrooms. Hot water and a limited number of microwaves will be available. Students will also bring their own personal snacks for a mid-morning break. 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 shall operate under the ASD in the status of a charter school, as outlined by the State of Alaska and the Anchorage School Board, for the period of ten years, beginning with the 2022-2023 school year.

(R.) A TERMINATION CLAUSE

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

The APC may also terminate the contract. 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 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 & THE ASD

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

RISK MANAGEMENT

Aquarian 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 ASD 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 ASD 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.