

**DESCRIPTION OF WHITE PINE CHARTER SCHOOL'S
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AND GOALS**

White Pine Charter School plans to create an educational setting that is optimal to prepare our children for the future work place. The future work place requires in-depth knowledge of technologies, environmental understanding, and foreign language. In addition to these skills, our children also need to learn teamwork, cooperation, and problem solving.

White Pine Charter School will differ from existing district programs in it's:

- a. Extended academic day
- b. Study of a second language
- c. Required Homework
- d. Written and signed disciplinary policy
- e. Required dress code

To assure a differentiated academic program a team approach, allowing teachers to teach from their strengths, will be used. Teachers from the 1st grade through 8th will specialize in subject areas. This allows the teachers to focus on what they enjoy teaching as well as exposing students to different teaching personalities. An early release schedule one day a week will provide teachers with time to collaborate and participate in professional development to assure team success.

The surrounding area of Idaho Falls will provide the school with strong support. There will be numerous opportunities for community involvement in the school, increasing opportunities for field learning, service projects, and internships. In this setting, the school intends for each student to obtain a sense of community and neighborhood that will provide a lifelong sense of belonging and confidence.

The curriculum of White Pine Charter School will contain both traditional academic subjects and an additional language that make the Charter unique. The Idaho State Department of Education's standards serve as benchmarks. The Core Knowledge curriculum areas include reading, writing, math, science, and social studies. They are enhanced with a foreign language, health and physical education.

White Pine Charter School's core values are reflected in its philosophy and mission statement. It is highly important for students to be challenged, to be taught as individuals, and to learn in a safe, educational environment that allows them to learn about today's world and equips them with the tools to reshape and improve the world of tomorrow.

White Pine Charter School intends to meet the goal of producing students who possess the academic and personal habits and attitudes desired of an educated citizen in the 21st century. Goal attainment will be assessed by ongoing student testing and staff professional development. The receiving teacher will have intimate knowledge of curriculum and about the strengths and weakness of the students. The school will know if it accomplishes its goals by the continuing success rate of its students and by their scores on standardized tests.

The educational program of White Pine Charter School is described by the **Thoroughness Standards (Idaho Code 33-1612)**

White Pine Charter School will fulfill the thoroughness standards identified in Idaho Code. It has been established that a thorough system of public schools in Idaho is one in which the following standards are met:

Standard a. A safe environment conducive to learning is provided.

Goal: Maintain a positive and safe teaching and learning climate. Every employee and student has the right to attend a school that encourages positive and productive learning, provides a safe and orderly environment, and promotes respect for everyone.

Objectives: White Pine Charter School will:

- Give a written disciplinary policy to every student, parent, faculty and staff member. The above mentioned individuals will be required to sign a contract that will state they have received a copy of the policy and have reviewed the content. Parents of younger children will be asked to review the policy with the child and sign the contract.
- Develop a staff/student handbook to provide rules and guidelines for physical safety. These guidelines will include and not be limited to the procedures for fire drills, reporting unsafe equipment, methods for checking students in and out of school, notification of parents' rights, and staff monitoring responsibilities.
- Provide a facility and adopts policies that meet all required city, state, and federal health, accessibility, safety, fire, and building codes for public schools, and is inspected as required to ensure the safety of students and staff.
- Establish, publish, and enforce policies that define acceptable and unacceptable behavior, including zero tolerance for weapons, violence, gangs, and use or sale of alcohol and drugs.
- Create an environment that encourages parents and other adults to visit the school and participate in the school's activities.

Standard b. Educators are empowered to maintain classroom discipline.

Goal: Create a positive teaching and learning environment with an emphasis on high expectations of behavior and performance.

Objectives: White Pine Charter School will:

- Give a written disciplinary policy to every student, parent, faculty and staff member. The above mentioned individuals will be required to sign a contract that will state they have received a copy of the policy and have reviewed the content. Parents of younger children will be asked to review the policy with the child and sign the contract.
- Develop a student handbook providing a code of conduct including clear expectations and consequences for unacceptable behavior, and a process for teachers to handle minor and major infractions in the classroom setting.
- Teach appropriate behaviors and foster responsible decision-making skills.
- Establish and maintain consistent rules aligned throughout the school.

Standard c. The basic values of honesty, self-discipline, unselfishness, respect for authority, and the central importance of work is emphasized.

Goal: Offer opportunities for students to develop and express exemplary character traits in concert with the overall educational program.

Objectives: White Pine Charter School will:

- Give a written disciplinary policy to every student, parent, faculty and staff member. The above mentioned individuals will be required to sign a contract that will state they have received a copy of the policy and have reviewed the content. Parents of younger children will be asked to review the policy with the child and sign the contract.
- Emphasize the importance of adults modeling important values at school.
- Help students build personal bonds and carry out responsibilities to one another and to the faculty and staff.
- Develop a sense of community and service within the school, and between the school and the larger community. Community service instills a sense of individual, social, and civic responsibility and enables the student to use newly found knowledge to solve community problems.

Standard d. The skills necessary to communicate effectively are taught.

Goal: Teach students a range of effective communication skills appropriate for the 21st century.

Objectives: White Pine Charter School will:

- Emphasize meaningful language experience in reading, writing, and spelling, enhanced by dramatization and memorization.
- Provide a technology supported environment that enhances communication.
- Provide instruction in a foreign language. Knowledge of a second language is essential in many occupations and post-secondary degrees. In addition, knowledge of a second language boosts English proficiency, improves memory and self-discipline, and enhances verbal and problem-solving skills.

Standard e. A basic curriculum necessary to enable students to enter academic or professional-technical post-secondary educational programs is provided.

Goal: Develop an educated citizenry for the 21st century through a dynamic, interactive academic program where pacing is driven by student capabilities rather than textbooks. Students must be well grounded in the basics such as reading writing, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Objectives: White Pine Charter School will:

- Use the Idaho State Department of Education Standards
- Enhance curriculum by unifying themes and other creative methods.
- Use a variety of methods to ensure student learning, including the Core Knowledge Curriculum; teaching of math through direct instruction, math manipulative, timed tests, and hands-on experimentation for science learning; and emphasis on community service in social studies.
- Student, parent, and educator together develop a Personalized Learning Goal for each student considering the student's strengths and weaknesses. The faster learner is continuously presented with new challenges. The slower learner benefits from extra adult help, multiple methods, and multiple environments.
- Emphasize environmental responsibility and an understanding of the relationships between the manmade and the natural environment.
- Field trips and career development opportunities will be used, as needed.

Standard f. The skills necessary for the students to enter the workforce are taught.

Goal: Provide students with basic skills that prepare them for future employment using learning tools such as computers, scientific equipment, and networks linked to local and nationwide resources. These tools assist students in learning how to learn so that they become lifelong learners and are prepared to enter the workforce with a solid foundation of knowledge and skills.

Objectives: White Pine Charter School will:

- Provide a strong foundation in basic reading, writing, science, social studies, geography and computational skills.
- Provide a technology-rich environment, encouraging the effective use of technology as a tool in the workplace of the 21st century.
- Enable students to develop the following intellectual habits important in the work place: adapting to new situations and responding effectively to new information; solving problems; locating and evaluating information from a variety of sources; making flexible connection among various disciplines of thought; thinking logically and making informed judgments.
- Enable students to develop the following personal habits important in the work place: accepting responsibility for personal decisions and actions; honesty, courage, and integrity; a healthy lifestyle; empathy, courtesy, and respect for differences among people; self-confidence; concentration and perseverance; responsible time management; assuming a fair share of the work load; and working cooperatively with others to reach group consensus.

Standard g. The students are introduced to current technology.

Goal: Provide students with a technology-rich environment using tools such as computers, scientific equipment, and networks linked to local and nationwide resources.

Objectives: White Pine Charter School will:

- Use interactive technology as tools in an integrated educational program rather than as primary instructional delivery systems.
- Emphasize the acquisition of basic computer skills as a supplementary medium of communication and research to complement other approaches.
- Use computers as tools for such activities as accessing research information, authoring, computation, record keeping and data storage, and communication.

Standard h. The importance of students acquiring the skills to enable them to be responsible citizens of their homes, schools, and communities is emphasized.

Goal: Provide students with the skills and understanding necessary to become responsible citizens in their respective jobs and communities of the 21st century.

Objectives: White Pine Charter School will:

- Provide a comprehensive program of community service that reflects responsible citizenship in a democratic society and an interdependent world.
- Enable students to develop the following habits of responsible citizens: accepting responsibility for personal decisions and actions; honesty, courage and integrity; empathy, courtesy and respect for differences among people; assuming a fair share of the work load; and working cooperatively with others to reach group consensus.
- Enable students to understand and apply concepts and principles embedded in each of the social studies: history, geography, political science, and economics.

White Pine Charter School will achieve the Thoroughness Standards through its basic curriculum and the unique aspects of the school. Instruction of the curriculum will be accomplished using an aligned proactive method. A combination of a strong emphasis on kindness and a reward system which honors children who are hard working, responsible, honest, and respectful creates an environment allowing students to maximize their learning potential. We will focus on the memorization and dramatization of classic poetry, quotations and other literary materials noted in the Core Knowledge Curriculum which, through daily recitation, discussion, and application to life situations, will create sensitivity for humankind in staff and students.

Multiple learning opportunities are afforded the White Pine Charter School students. Some are familiar, some are novel, but all strive to make learning relevant and purposeful and to actively engage the learner. Problem-solving groups apply knowledge they have acquired and practice new skills by tackling both real world problems and problems simulated to model the current work world. For example, the school's requirement for students to perform genuine community service not only informs students about real needs our community has, but also encourages them as a group to decide which needs they can reasonably address, plan an approach, implement the plan, and then evaluate the result. Peer teaching, when appropriate, provides an opportunity for learners to become educators and reinforce their own knowledge and mastery of new skills through presentation of their own work and through working with a "learning buddy." Projects will include a balance of individual effort and group collaboration to ensure mastery of important basic skills, content, and interaction skills.

White Pine Charter School's learning program is built on the belief that all children can learn. It recognizes that talent is individual and that children may excel in any or all the academic areas. All academic talent will be encouraged through instruction. The Charter School will retain the traditional focus on reading, writing, and math.

Improve Student Learning

Our students will learn to:

- Develop comprehensive reading skill;
- Develop phonic based knowledge;
- develop oral and written skills;
- develop oral and written skills in a non-native language;
- use knowledge and skills, think logically, and solve problems related to mathematics;
- have sufficient knowledge of science to be responsible users of scientific information;
- participate in a comprehensive program of community service that reflects responsible citizens in a democratic society and an interdependent world;
- understand and apply the knowledge, concepts, principles, and themes embedded in each of the social studies--history, geography, political science, and economics.

In keeping with White Pine Charter School's mission, we recognize that education is more than the assimilation of facts. Proficiency in a discipline means that the learner becomes a capable practitioner and has a sufficient foundation to pursue advanced study. The Charter School emphasizes both the acquisition and application of knowledge.

Use of the individualized learning goal will encourage learners to take responsibility for their own learning, while encouraging teachers, parents and the community to share in that responsibility. Working together, student, parent, and educator will consider learner strength and weaknesses. They will then identify an academic and personal goal for each learner. These goals capitalize on learner strength and shore up areas of weakness, while enhancing parental involvement. Through the use of personalized goals, the White Pine Charter School ensures that children are not penalized for the rate at which they learn. The faster learner is continuously presented with new challenges, while the slower learner benefits from an academic improvement plan.

The learning program supports White Pine Charter School's mission of developing lifelong learners. It is designed to stimulate the desire to learn, and is based on the belief that all learners possess an innate and unique creativity that can be developed given the appropriate environment. It allows for the joy of knowledge, self-statement, and the thrill of exploration. It is flexible to accommodate the individuality of learners and to evolve as White Pine Charter School learns and grows.

The staff and parents of the White Pine Charter School believe that children do not develop character in a vacuum. Our plan for character education utilizes memorization and dramatization of classic poetry, stories from The Book of Virtue, plays by Aesop's Fables, famous quotes and historical passages, as well as staff who model essential traits of good character. The staff at White Pine Charter School will ensure a safe, kind environment allowing students to acquire essential information and attitudes that will help them lead productive lives.

A. Instructional Methods

White Pine Charter School is distinguished by the multiplicity of ways in which it seeks to ensure student learning. Some of these are highlighted in the sections that follow. The Charter School uses uncommon means to achieve common ends. Through its multiple methods, all students are potentially successful and capable of fulfilling their individual potential. White Pine Charter School plans to use the specific methods mentioned earlier (see "Standard e" in Section III.B. Idaho Thoroughness Standards) and the following instructional methods:

a. The Core Knowledge Sequence presumes that an educated learner needs to know clearly defined skills and concepts that can best be learned in an organized sequential fashion. Traditionally, this approach has been predominately lecture-based. The Charter School plans to add innovative learning tools to increase the efficiency of this method and to provide the opportunity for drills, which are sometimes necessary.

b. The Inquiry and Problem-Solving Method suggests that learning occurs when individuals think critically and solve problems. The predominant premise of this method is that it is important to know how to retrieve and use information, not just to have instant recall and possession of the information.

c. The Individualized Learning Method attempts to personalize the learning process to the interests of the individual by allowing students to develop goals for self-study. The reasons for learning thus become intrinsic--one's own curiosity and personal applicability of the information learned.

d. The Discussion Method encourages learning through sharing of information and concepts within a group, with the thinking process playing an important role. A discussion leader is prepared to recognize each learner's level of understanding and can respond at the level most helpful to the learner.

B. Curriculum

1. It is the intent of the White Pine Charter School to remain aligned with the general goals and curriculum of the Idaho Standards. The Core Knowledge curriculum will be mapped and a written outline will be completed establishing compliance with the Idaho Standards.

The White Pine Charter School curriculum contains both traditional academic subjects and additional language areas that make the Charter unique. The Idaho State Department of Education's standards will be enhanced with unifying themes and other creative methods. The subjects that make up the curriculum are listed and briefly discussed below. Traditional core curriculum areas—reading, writing, math, science, history and social studies-- are strongly emphasized. They are augmented with a second language, music, art, health, physical, and environmental education.

Language Arts (English and Foreign). The literature-based curriculum develops learners who are effective communicators, who love literature, and are lifelong readers and writers. Comprehensive skills, grammar, and vocabulary are integrated within the literature program. Dramatization and memorization of accelerated vocabulary is a motivational aspect of the language arts experience. Writing includes goal setting and self-assessment through a personal journal, book reports, research reports as well as creative and expository writing. Communication skills include speaking and writing, and expand into presentation skills, using modern technological tools. The Core Knowledge curriculum will be 50% of the language arts program.

Science and Health. The science curriculum is a multiyear sequence that emphasizes hands-on experimentation and functional knowledge of scientific phenomena. Science must take students beyond the factual approach or reading, reciting, drilling, and testing science to actually “doing” and “feeling.” This process approach lets students experience the excitement of science so they can better understand facts and concepts. Kindergarten through Grade 3 students will focus on the basic science process skills of observing, inferring, measuring, communicating, classifying, and predicting. Grades 4 through 8 students will add the integrated science process skills of identifying variables, constructing tables or data, constructing graphs, describing relationships between variables, acquiring and processing data, constructing hypotheses, and designing investigations.

Mathematics. Kindergarten through Grade 8 students will master grade appropriate arithmetic processes of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers, fractions, and decimals, as well as the basics of algebra and geometry. Teachers will provide opportunities for concept and manipulative experiences that engage students in exploring, conjecturing, and thinking. Students will view and use math as a tool for reasoning and problem solving in purposeful ways.

Social Studies, History, Geography and Community Service. Kindergarten through Grade 8 will follow the Core Knowledge Curriculum and align with the Idaho State Achievement Standards. In addition there will be a strong emphasis on community service in Grades 6 through 8 as students apply their understanding of and their contributions to the world around them. We will seek out ways for the students to discover and experience responsibilities and rights as members of our democratic community.

Environmental Education. White Pine Charter School emphasizes responsibility for the health of our cities and our planet. Learners will participate in hands-on projects intended to form an awareness of the critical relationships between the man-made and natural environments. Learners will study and debate real-

life issues such as coping with diminishing resources. Consistent participation in Idaho Falls community projects will show learners how they can affect the future quality of our cities and health of our green spaces.

Technology. Technology will be used to support a child's natural way of learning through individual and group discovery and seeking solutions to real-life challenges. White Pine Charter School will provide our learners with technology skills that prepare them for future employment.

C. Curriculum Development and Approval

Curriculum development will be an ongoing process directed by the Administrator with the approval of the Operating Council. The curriculum will be implemented and evaluated through observations of teachers and students, with follow-up discussions with the Administrator to include written future goals.

It is the intent of the White Pine Charter School to remain aligned with the general curriculum sequence of the Bonneville Joint School District No. 93 and the exiting standards of the Idaho State Department of Education as they are adopted.

D. Alignment of Curriculum and Textbooks

White Pine Charter School will follow the Idaho Department of Education curriculum and the state aligned Core Knowledge Curriculum. Core Subject textbooks have been selected and chosen based on state approved curriculum.

Curriculum alignment will be evaluated on an on going basis. The evaluation will be the responsibility of the Administrator and approved by the Operating Council. Testing will acknowledge performance that the curriculum content and requirements have met the state and local testing standards.

C. Educational Programs and Services

1. Provision for educational programs and services such as physical education, HIV/AIDS education, family life/sex education, occupational education, guidance and counseling services, Safe/Drug Free Schools programs, summer school programs, parent education programs, social work, and psychological services will be identified and included. The Operating Council, Administrator, and PFA will work together to determine the need for, and estimated cost and value of, these programs.

D. Academic Freedom, Controversial Issues, and Religion

White Pine Charter School shall offer an educational program appropriate to the level of student understanding which:

- allows students to study and discuss controversial issues.
- provides opportunities to examine evidence, facts, and differing viewpoints.
- teaches the importance of fact, the value of judgment, and the respect of conflicting opinions.

Religious release time for students does not apply to the grade levels serviced by the White Pine Charter School.

A student that fails to meet the school standards and goals will be put on an academic improvement plan designed by teacher and parent. The plan will be continually monitored for accountability by teacher, parent and student. The plan may include but not be limited to additional homework, adaptive curriculum procedures in the classroom, tutoring and testing for specific learning problems