

Basic Information and Acknowledgement Form

Introduction

Snowy Range Academy (SRA) is committed to excellence and fairness in public education. As the first charter school within the Albany County School District (and within Wyoming!) SRA operates under a charter contract between its Board of Directors and the Albany County School District #1 (ACSD #1). The charter contract is the legal document under which SRA and its Board of Directors are held accountable to parents and the community. As a public school, SRA is supported by public taxes but also by federal and private grant contributions of those who support the principles and ideals outlined in the school's charter application. SRA is governed by a Board of Directors. The initial Board of Directors was appointed by the Founding Members of the school. Upon expiration of the original Board members' terms, the student's parents (you!) will elect new Directors. All parents, regardless of economic status, are free to choose this educational program for their children.

School Mission

The mission of the Snowy Range Academy is to offer an academically rigorous, content-rich integrated educational program grounded in a common foundation and sequence of study. The Snowy Range Academy will provide excellence and fairness in education by operating according to policies based on values of inclusiveness, personal responsibility, honesty, self-reliance, and courtesy.

Snowy Range Academy recognizes the leadership of teachers in the classroom, and will develop a school structure emphasizing how students, parents, administrators, and other relevant parties can support the teachers in their delivery of academic content. Within the context of the goals listed here, the Snowy Range Academy will endeavor to instruct students in skills that they can use for the rest of their lives. The result will be a student body that has attained high levels of academic competence, comprised of individuals who are motivated to continue to develop their knowledge and skills.

School Vision

Our goal is to help every child strive for excellence –in academics, character, and citizenship within a rich intellectual environment. To achieve this:

- Students will come prepared to learn
- Teachers will maintain high expectations
- Parents will assist with the children's education and support the school through service
- The Administration and Board will provide strong effective leadership.

Educational Program and Curriculum

Curriculum: SRA uses the Core Knowledge Sequence developed by E.D. Hirsch and the Core Knowledge Foundation. The sequence is structured for pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade yet lays the foundation for life-long learning and creativity. The curriculum assures that all students will have a fair and equal opportunity to acquire background knowledge necessary for cumulative learning. The curriculum will meet or exceed State and ACSD #1 standards and benchmarks.

Teaching Thinking: SRA has embraced the classical model of education as distinct from modern, progressive education. Classical education regards human beings foremost as thinking creatures. Though studies must be tailored to the age of the student, at every level of education youth must be invited to think and use their minds. In addition, classical education values knowledge for its own sake; uphold the standards of correctness, logic, beauty, and importance intrinsic to the liberal arts and sciences; demands moral virtue; and prepares human beings to assume their places as responsible citizens in this world.

Values: To thrive in work, citizenship, and personal growth, children must be taught the values of a democratic society. SRA will identify and teach such values as cooperation, courage, honesty, integrity, respect, and responsibility. The school's Principal and faculty will encourage and promote these traits, and students will be given opportunities to practice and develop them.

Special Topics

Enrollment Policy The number of students allowed to enroll in SRA is limited by contract. In order to comply with Federal and State Charter School Statutes, a lottery must be used for enrollment in the event more students apply for admission to SRA than can be admitted. If such is the case, then a random lottery

process will be instituted for student selection. In accordance with federal statute priority may be given first to children of founding members, administrators, teachers, and staff; siblings of currently enrolled students, and previously enrolled students are also given priority standing. To avoid splitting families in this initial year, the oldest child will be entered in the lottery, and if that child is selected for admission, any younger siblings will be automatically admitted to their respective grade levels. If the oldest child is not selected, the next younger sibling will be entered into the lottery for his or her grade level, etc.

If you are planning on enrolling a child into Kindergarten at SRA, that child must have turned 5 by September 15th of the year he start Kindergarten. Students entering 1st grade must be 6 by September 15th of that school year.

Parental Involvement and Volunteering: Parent volunteers are encouraged and facilitated at SRA, but certainly not required. Parents may volunteer for any number of tasks, such as participation on Board meetings or committees; aiding in the classroom, lunchroom, or playground; assisting on fundraisers, etc. Volunteers must complete a volunteer application/information form and comply with all guidelines and rules for volunteering.

Safety: The safety of students is a primary concern at SRA. The Board recommends that all students walking or biking to school cross at the intersection of Boulder and Grand, or 30th and Grand since those are the only two intersections with traffic lights.

Punctuality and Attendance: The school day begins at 8:15 a.m. and ends at 3:15 p.m. Parents are asked to have their students at school a minimum of 5 minutes prior to the start of classes. Disruption and loss of instruction time result when students are not in their classrooms ready to begin learning on time. Tardy students must be checked in at the office by their parent or guardian before going to class. Parents are encouraged to make school attendance a priority by scheduling vacations and non-school activities outside of scheduled school hours. Busing to and from SRA is provided by ACSD #1.

Dress Code: Students attending SRA are expected to adhere to the dress code. The dress code supports efforts to minimize external distinctions between students and to invite the individual personalities of each student to shine through. Limited funds are available to help with uniforms and school supplies. Please let us know if you need this help.

Homework: Students are given homework to enhance and reinforce what has been taught at school. Students must complete homework and return it on time to receive full credit. Parents are expected to encourage their students to complete their homework.

After-school Programs: As the start of school approaches, we will provide more information to you on the before- and after-school programs we intend to offer including: the afternoon kindergarten enrichment program, before- and after-school programs, Destination Imagination, etc. These programs are not funded by the State and will require that we charge a fee. Limited funds are available to help with these program fees. Please let us know if you need this help.

I have read the above information regarding the program and policies of Snowy Range Academy and understand that by voluntarily enrolling my student, I accept the philosophy of the school and agree to abide by the policies set forth.

Printed Name(s) _____

Signature(s) _____