

NORTH STAR

CHARTER SCHOOL

AMENDED March 13, 2007

PETITION

NORTH STAR CHARTER SCHOOL

Petition for Amendment to Charter

Submitted To:

The Board of Trustees
Joint School District No. 2
Meridian School District
911 North Meridian Road
Meridian, Idaho

Submitted By:

Joe deVera, Chairman
Board of Directors
North Star Charter School, Inc.
March 2007

North Star Charter High School

International School of Business and Economics

Mission:

We are a public charter school that equips students to think critically and to become virtuous citizen leaders in our local and world community.

Vision:

North Star Charter School guides our students to possess a passion to learn, serve and excel.

Overview:

At the start of the 2007-2008 school year, North Star Charter School will offer the addition of a 9-12 grade high school program with two classes per grade. This will begin with 9th grade classes which will be held in the Eagle Family Worship Center next door to our present location. Our goal is to purchase land and build a new building by the 2008-2009 school year. The new structure will house an expanded K-8 school consisting of two classrooms per grade, the addition of a high school, a gym and a lunch room. Once in the new expanded building, the high school will be opened to 9th and 10th graders and will add one grade thereafter until 12th grade is reached. A common thread through this K-12 school will be economics and financial literacy but that emphasis expands to a theme of international business/economics at the high school level.

Purpose:

Our purpose in opening North Star Charter High School is to offer a continuation of our K-8 program where students exist in a small, safe, caring environment with an accelerated curriculum that meets and exceeds the State Standards. In addition, at the high school level, our purpose is to ensure all of our students are not only “college eligible”, but “college ready”.

Academics:

North Star High School will offer a curriculum that starts with Idaho Achievement Standards and Joint School District No. 2 adopted curriculum as the foundation and will build on that foundation to prepare students for college readiness. Students will be encouraged to pursue concurrent credit through local universities. North Star Charter School will seek the addition of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and dual enrollment programs as fit our need. The IB program requires schools to go through a two-year screening and training process before acceptance into the program.

North Star Charter High School will participate in all testing required by the State Board of Education and will meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act to ensure that students are taught by highly-qualified teachers (Title 33, Chapter 52, 33-5205 & 33-5210) and that students meet the proficiency standards therein.

North Star Charter High School’s graduation requirements will meet or exceed the minimum set forth by the State Board of Education. In addition, those requirements will be aligned with the Meridian School Districts graduation requirements. Service learning and community commitment will be strong emphases at North Star Charter High School.

Students at NSCHS will participate in job shadowing, internships and apprenticeships within our local business community. They will also be required to do 15 hours of civic leadership in the form of community volunteerism, service learning, and citizenship projects each year.

Each grade level at North Star International School of Business and Economics will have a theme and a focus. Students will begin their high school experience with the theme of *Place* in ninth grade. Their sophomore year will focus on a theme of *Discovery*. In their junior year the students will advance to *Innovation and Entrepreneurship*. The student's final year will center on *Research and Problem Solving*. Within the theme for each grade level, a common thread of economics, business and global perspective will be emphasized.

Schedule:

- Designing a workable and practical school schedule can be one of the biggest challenges for any school, especially a small high school. North Star will seriously consider the block schedule, the 7-period day, and the trimester schedules MSD is now studying. In the meantime, our goal, once grades 9-12 are fully in place, is to have a flex schedule in which students will enroll in a minimum of 6 classes but may take up to 8 classes per day. Some designated classes will be approved for completion on-line, however, the core knowledge classes will only be allowed on-site. Students will be allowed and encouraged to take dual-enrollment classes through local universities.

Two years of foreign language will be required but four years are recommended. Our goal is to offer the following languages: Spanish, Mandarin, German, and Farsi. As the high school grows, other humanities course will be offered such as jazz band, choir, debate, art and drama. North Star High will seek to participate in competitive sports especially after 11 and 12th grades are added.

Summary:

During each of the four years of North Star High School, students will deepen and reinforce their learning in three vital skill development areas: Knowledge of Economics and Business Principles, English grammar, composition and writing, and Civic Leadership skills. Our mission, to equip students to think critically and to become virtuous citizen leaders in our global community, depends on students' abilities to communicate, both verbally and in writing, to understand and apply economic principles to problem solving, and to internalize the value of service to family, community and country. Recognizing the development of skills in these three areas as essential to our mission, courses in these three subject areas must be taken at North Star. North Star High School's primary focus is to offer rigorous core classes which will prepare all of our students for college readiness. An integral thread woven throughout these core classes will be our emphasis on economics and international awareness. Our goal is that all students, no matter what their choice of study within the school, will leave fully prepared for college classes.

9th Grade

Theme: Place

During their freshman year, students gain a sense of their place, their natural surroundings, and pride in where they live and what they have.

This is manifested in the curricula in the following ways: Earth Science will give them a feel for the environment, problems that they can solve, and their own physical settings. Students will learn about civic pride and leadership through our service commitment. They will learn about economic responsibility and fiscal consequences. Ninth grade students will learn citizenship and the rights and responsibilities it entails. The pervasiveness of the English language and the need to develop a second language will be emphasized.

Focus (aligned with state standards):

- ❖ **Economics**—Scarcity, Resources, Choices
This will be a focus in Earth Science, Math and Humanities
- ❖ **English**—Knowledge of grammar, structure and power of words, reading /professional and business writing. This will focus on letters of complaint, resumes, cover letters, applications, web resumes, letters to the editor, diary entries, presidential papers, etc.
- ❖ **Civic Leadership** – volunteer and service hours focusing on place, respect and responsibility to their environment.

Sample Schedule:

English/US History I- 2 periods	English/US History II – 2 periods
Global Issues	Personal Finance/Intro Econ
Earth Science	Earth Science
Math	Math
Business Comp Apps.	PE (or sports)
Foreign Language	Foreign Language

Civic Leadership—15 hours

Volunteer and service hours should focus on the theme of **Place**, such as civic pride projects, school projects that focus on place, and citizenship projects. Students will be rewarded if they attend council meetings, collect articles and write about political campaigns and various other community activities.

A faculty advisor will be assigned to each 9th grader who will then continue with a student their four years of high school.

10th grade

Theme: Discovery

During the sophomore year, the students will select a country to study for the entire year. This country should be aligned with the language the student is learning. This will be a year of self-discovery as well as one of discovery of another culture and system of governance.

This will be manifested in the curricula as follows: Humanities, integrated through English and World History, will introduce students to other civilizations and ways of doing things. Cultural values such as norms, religions of the world, languages, values, customs and traditions both in the US and in their foreign county will be introduced at this level. Cultural days and events will be held in the school, conducted through the humanities class. Biology and math will focus on inquiry process. Health class will concentrate on self-discovery. The job shadowing experience will encourage the student to stretch and grow.

Focus (aligned with state standards):

- ❖ **Economics**—trade, comparative advantage and absolute advantage, cultural and trade exchanges, specialization and division of labor, developing work skills for the new world economy, using economics in content areas.
- ❖ **English**— reading, creative writing, journaling, self-reflection, using explorers' notes and journals, keeping a self-log in Health, writing articles and newsletters about their countries, interviewing exchange students, etc., using nature as a theme for writing both in English and in Biology.
- ❖ **Civic Leadership** – should include a project related to their country: learning about refugee organization in community, exchange programs, student organization on International students.

Sample Schedule:

English/ World History I (2 credits)
Biology
Math
Accounting and Business Applications
Health (possibly on-line)
Foreign Language

English/ World History II (2 credits)
Biology
Math
World Geo and Cultures (Sister school interaction)
Job Shadow/Speech
Foreign Language

Civic Leadership—15 hours

Leadership project should include, in at least one semester, a project related to their country.

11th Grade

Theme: Innovation and Entrepreneurship

This is the year that students test their business and entrepreneurship skills. The students will operate the school store, initiate other business projects, intern with a business in the community, be introduced to Junior Achievement programs, and organize an Inventor's fair—judged by JA and HP/Micron employees.

The theme will manifest itself in the English/History Humanities class emphasizing American initiative and entrepreneurship. Having a marketing cooperative to run the school store will enhance business skills. This is the year to begin planning for the future and to start the IB curriculum. Students will be encouraged to gain technology skills in their internships. The idea is that the student find an innovative and entrepreneurial way to solve problems.

Focus (aligned with state standards):

- ❖ **Economics**—micro-economics, business skills, supply and demand, how specialization and division of labor has affected American enterprise, foreign impact of innovation, macro-economics, investment, planning for future, entrepreneurship.
- ❖ **English**—reading, technical writing, writing in labs and tech classes, mission statements, business plan, modern literature (non-fiction), internship experiences.
- ❖ **Civic Leadership** – focus this year on foreign projects and foreign exchange students. Also, extended service in an area of need in the community or school store.

Sample Schedule:

English/ US History III
PE (or sports)
Chemistry
Math
Micro Economics
Macro Economics (or in 12th grade)

English/ US History IV
Reading (can take/on-line)
Chemistry
Math
Internship – Marketing Co-op
Apprenticeship (72 hrs)

Foreign Language

Foreign Language
**IB strand starts this year –option for 11th and 12th grade students.*

Civic Leadership—15 hours

Again, CL could be combined with any of the above classes, as an extended learning experience. Since this year is the least intensive in international learning, the civic leadership hours could be directed to foreign projects, foreign exchange students, etc. This would also be a perfect time to do an exchange with sister school, prepare for an overseas experience in the summer or during the senior year, or host an exchange student in the home.

12th grade

Theme: Research and Problem Solving

The theme of this year is to combine previous learning with action. This will be the year of any potential exchange programs, a year to host an exchange student, and a year to craft a culminating project that addresses a problem.

This theme will be manifested through their senior thesis project, through their internship and their experience overseas. The Humanities classes will emphasize research techniques, inquisitiveness, flexible thinking, and knowledge of world issues. Soft skills will be reinforced—presentation skills, interview skills, presence, confidence—through the senior research project. The culminating activity, the International Economic Summit, will provide a finalization of all learning that has taken place in the international school.

Focus (aligned with state standards):

- ❖ **Economics:** macro-economics, global awareness, currency fluctuation, outsourcing and other trade issues, trade, alliances and conflicts
- ❖ **English:** reading, research and expository writing, biographies, senior thesis project, writing for publication
- ❖ **Civic Leadership** – focus on state and local government,

Sample Schedule:

English/Am. Gov. /World Issues
Thesis Writing (2 credits)

English/Am. Gov. /World Issues
Thesis Writing (2 credits)

International Economics
(International Economic Summit)

AP Macro or IB Econ
(International Economic Summit)

Electives (1 credit) Dual enrollment
(AP Math, AP Science, AP Business)

Elective (1 credit) Dual Enrollment
(AP Math, AP Science, AP Business)

Senior Seminar – Math/Science (2 credits-
application of core concepts)

Senior Seminar (2 credits – investigative
problem- solving and research dove-tailing into
senior project.)

Internship/Thesis/Senior Project
Foreign Language/Elective
(*IB Strand continued)

Internship/Thesis/Senior Project
Foreign Language/Elective

Civic Leadership – 15 hours Volunteer at state legislature, work with local mayoral youth committees, volunteer to work on state or local issue, or project associated with thesis.

North Star High School International School of Business and Economics

Sample course work and graduation requirements: Courses described below may vary but will remain true to the social studies/economics/financial literacy theme through all grades K-12, as well as the International Business/ Economics emphasis of the high school. The methodology used to teach many courses will encompass an interdisciplinary approach. However, the integrity of all courses will not be compromised. Distinct courses will be listed on student transcripts and will adhere to district and state content standards.

9th Grade

<i>1st Semester</i>	<i>2nd Semester</i>	<i>MSD required credits in blue</i>
English/US History I (2 hours)	English/US History II (2 hours)	9 th grade English (2) US History (2)
Global Issues	Personal Finance I ^{***} /Comp. applications	Global Perspectives (1) Elective (1)
Earth Science	Earth Science	Earth Science (2)
Math	Math	Math (2)
Bus. Comp Apps.	PE (or sports)	PE (1) Technology (1)
Foreign Language or elective *	Foreign Language or elective*	Humanities (2)
Civic Leadership 15 hours **	Civic Leadership 15 hours**	

*Electives may be choir, jazz band, drama, debate, art, or foreign language. Two years of foreign language are required.

**Civic Leadership is required at each grade level. The time is to be divided equally between community service projects, service learning projects, and school service.

***Materials from National Council on Economic Education. This class will take place in a computer lab and will have practical computer applications built in.

10 Grade

<i>1st Semester</i>	<i>2nd Semester</i>	<i>MSD required credits in blue</i>
English/ World History	English/ World History	10 th grade English (2) World History (2)
Biology	Biology	Biology (2)
Math	Math	Math (2)
Accounting/Bus Apps ***	World Geo and Cultures (Sister School)*	Geography (1) Bus Appl.(1)
Health	Job Shadowing/Speech 60 hrs **	Health (1) Speech (1)
Foreign Language	Foreign Language	Humanities (2)
Civic Leadership 15 hours	Civic Leadership 15 hours	

*Connection with International Sister Schools. Possible countries: Ireland, N. Ireland, Kenya, Jordan, Germany, the Basque Country, Taiwan, Mexico, and China

** Job Shadowing – students will connect with a local company with international ties during last period of the day during second semester. They will spend 3 weeks out in the field (2 hours/day) and then return to classroom for a seminar in which they will write about their experience and give a presentation. In addition, during this second year of high school, business mentoring will begin with Junior Achievement offering local business men and women a chance to eat lunch with 10th grade students.

***Curriculum offered by ICEE will be incorporated: Hands on Banking, and the Stock Market Game. Curriculum from Junior Achievement will also be included.

11th Grade

<i>1st Semester</i>	<i>2nd Semester</i>	<i>MSD required credits in blue</i>
English/U.S. History III	English/US History IV	11 th Grade English (2) US History (2)
PE (or sports)	Reading (could be on-line)	Reading (1) PE (1)
Chemistry	Chemistry	Science (2)
Math	Math	Math (2)
Micro Economics*	Internship/Marketing Co-op	Elective (2)
Macro Economics****	Apprenticeship – 72 hours **	Elective (1)
Foreign Language or elective	Foreign Language or elective	Humanities (2)
Civic Leadership 15 hours	Civic Leadership 15 hours	
International Exchange ***		

*This class will take place in a computer lab setting. In addition to computer applications, students will participate in a capstone project for 11th graders – investing real money. Sponsors will be sought to provide between \$10,000 and \$50,000 for the students to invest. As a prerequisite, students will need to participate in a simulation provided by the Idaho Council on Economic Education called the Stock Market Game. Local investment bankers will be enlisted to advise the 11th grade students in this real life investment opportunity. The profit made each year by their investments will be divided among the players and applied to their college funds.

**Students will again connect with local companies that have international associations and spend 72 hours between one to 3 businesses. During one 9 weeks, students will spend 2 hours a day, 4 days a week at their business. The 5th day each week will be spent debriefing their experiences in class. The second 9 weeks will be spent reflecting on what they have learned and designing a presentation to report their findings. They will also decide how they can dovetail their experience into a senior project or thesis. Students will be encouraged to seek out non-profit businesses that have world-wide connections (such as the Red Cross) as well as for profit businesses.

***Students who participate in some kind of International Education and earn 55 credits during high school will receive a Diploma of Distinction. To achieve this distinction, students may travel abroad with their parents, participate in an exchange program for between 6 weeks and a semester, host an exchange student in their home, or participate in a 2-week over-seas volunteer experience. The international exchange may take place some time during their junior year, summer between their junior or senior year, or during their senior year. Students will be encouraged to travel to one of our sister schools and students from our sister schools will be encouraged to come to visit our school, also. Concurrent enrollment is offered through BSU through the Study Abroad International Internship program.

**** This course can be waived if the student takes AP Macro their senior year. Instead this could be a computer lab class coupled with the Apprenticeship.

12th Grade

1 st Semester	2 nd Semester	MSD required credits <i>in blue</i>
English/Am. Gov./World Issues/Thesis Writing	English/Am Gov./World Issues/Thesis Writing	12 th Grade English (2) Government (2)
International Economic *	AP Macro or IB Econ*	Economics (1) (1)
Elective** (Dual Enrollment)	Elective**(Dual Enrollment)	Elective (2)
Senior Seminar (2 credits)***	Senior Seminar (2 credits)***	Math (1) Science (1)
Internship/Thesis/Senior Project****	Internship/Thesis/Senior Project****	Elective (2)
Foreign Language or elective	Foreign Language or elective	Humanities (2)
Civic Leadership 15 hours	Civic Leadership 15 hours	

If students manage their time well, some of their senior year may be spent in an elective such as jazz band, drama, debate, art or foreign language.

*During this course, students will participate in a program through the Idaho Council on Economic Education called the International Summit. In this program students compete twice a year against other high school seniors in a world trade simulation.

** Students may choose between AP or Concurrent credit in Math, Science, or Business courses.

*** This is a capstone seminar for seniors in which students will demonstrate integrated application and mastery of core concepts. Experts from the community in areas such as engineering, agriculture, and banking will partner in the development of complex problems students can address. The problems will link mathematical and scientific knowledge.

****The final internship involves 270 hours with a local business which has international connections. This averages out, for example, to one hour a day the first semester and 2 hours a day the second semester but may be arranged between the student, business and cooperating teacher. Significant time will be spent in class working on their final project, also. Students will work with a business to determine a problem that needs to be solved and will research solutions, develop products, enlist community support, and propose answers to solve that problem. Their findings will be presented in a thesis/project presentation at the end of the year.

Credits required for Diploma of Distinction from NSCHS (in black)

(Meridian required credits in blue):

English 9-12 (8) (8)
Math (7) (4)
Earth Science (2) (2)
Biology (2) (2)
Chemistry (2)
Senior Science (1)
American Government (2) (2)
U.S. History (4) (4)
World History (2)
Global Perspectives (1) (1)
Reading (1) (1)
Speech (1) (1)
PE (2) (2)
Health (1) (1)
Foreign Language (4) (Humanities -2)
Micro/Macro Economics (2)
Personal Finance/Accounting (2)
Bus. Comp App./ Marketing Co-op (2)
World Geography (1)
International Economics/AP Economics (2) (1)
Senior Thesis/Project (2)
Electives (6) (10-12) these can be counted above

NSCHS Diploma of Distinction Credits required: 55 (meets State Boards expectations for 2013)

NSCHS/MSD minimum credits required: 42

Math choices: Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, AP Calculus (concurrent), Statistics (concurrent).

Electives: Bus. Comp. Internship/Thesis/Senior Project Apps. I, II, III, desktop publishing, Jazz band, Choir, Drama, Debate, Art, Spanish, German, Japanese, Chinese, Farsi, Accounting I & II, Bus. Technology – databases/ spreadsheets.