

Glacier High School Charter

A California Public Charter School

Second Charter July 1, 2007-June 30, 2012

Approved by YUSD 12/5/2006

Glacier High School Charter Vision and Mission Statement

Glacier High School Charter's Vision:

The vision of Glacier is to create a rigorous, dynamic and accountable learning community that is built upon voluntary association, personalized student learning, high academic standards for all students and parent leadership. Glacier will accomplish these four complementary goals by providing all students and parents with: personal, experienced teacher guidance and support; powerful and proven instruction; ongoing, multiple modality assessments; and a large and growing inventory of high quality, standards aligned instructional resources that offer both breadth and depth in curriculum and auxiliary materials. As a result, students will develop the skills necessary to become responsible lifelong learners who understand dedication and desire as the keys for success.

Glacier High School Charter's Mission is to:

- Inspire students to learn and grow to their potential and become responsible contributing community members.
- Assist parents in the education of their students.
- Provide the community with a valid educational alternative.
- Equip rural high school students with two kinds of literacy necessary in the 21st century; the ability to read, write, speak, and calculate with clarity and precision and the ability to participate passionately and responsibly in the life of the community. The Glacier High School Charter (GHSC) will enable students to become literate, self-motivated, lifelong learners by providing a multi-cultural, student-centered environment in which all students will be held to high academic and behavioral standards, will work in collaborative relationships, both within and outside the school site/calendar, and will perform service to the greater community.

We will seek to support this mission by:

- Serving as a liaison between the community and the home schooling family; demonstrating to the community the educational soundness and viability of publicly funded, parent-directed education for students.
- Providing a supportive, encouraging environment in which parents can receive high quality training opportunities, teaching resources, mentoring, opportunities for networking, and a structure to support their educational objectives.
- Providing students with learning resources and an environment for enrichment opportunities that encourage them to become self-motivated, life-long learners.

Purpose (How learning best occurs)

Glacier will meet the needs of children who, together with their families, have decided that a home-based, family-centered style of education best suits them. Research, history, and our own experience have shown that homeschooling, with parents assuming the role of teachers, creates an effective and successful environment for educating children. Parents are natural teachers. Those who homeschool their children expand their loving, nurturing environments to facilitate their child's involvement in learning. These parents know and understand their children better than anyone else.

Goals

The goals of Glacier High School Charter include but shall not be limited to the following:

- Students will be encouraged to be self-motivated and lifelong learners through self-directed learning opportunities that are initiated and pursued by the student and parent. This sense of ownership will be enhanced through activities, special classes, and field trips that reflect the parent and student interests.
- Students will gain one (1) Normal Curve Equivalent per academic year per subject area as measured by the state mandated testing instrument.
- All students show ongoing progress towards meeting graduation requirements for one of the two types of graduation certificates as delineated in this document.
- Demonstration of knowledge and academic skills attained across major subject areas through integrated learning will be assessed by authentic performance-based assessments that may include student portfolios, journal summaries, presentations,

observations or charter teacher-student-parent evaluations. This will be evidenced by the charter teacher's assessment of progress as reported on the year-end student evaluation form.

Educated Person in the 21st Century

To be an educated person in the 21st century, one must have:

- The foundational skills - reading, writing, mathematics, speaking, and listening skills.
- Thinking skills - creative thinking, making decisions, solving problems, being able to look at issues from different perspectives, knowing how to learn, reasoning/logic skills.
- Personal qualities - individual responsibility, self-esteem, social skills, self-management, integrity.

Concurrently with these foundational skills, a student must also learn how to:

- Manage resources - time, money, materials, and space.
- Develop interpersonal skills - work with teams, be able to teach others, lead others, work well with people from different backgrounds.
- Deal with information - acquire and evaluate data, organize and maintain files, interpret and communicate effectively, use computers to process information.
- Use different systems - to understand social, organizational, and technological systems, monitor and correct performance, design or improve systems.
- Use technology - select appropriate equipment and tools, apply technology to specific tasks, maintain and troubleshoot technologies.

STUDENTS (who the school will educate)

Enrollment

Glacier High School Charter serves, educates, and works with those California students and parents, residing in Madera County and its adjacent contiguous counties for ninth through twelfth grade, who:

- Are seeking a supportive home school experience.
- Believe that their child's academic needs, whether it be for a more challenging curriculum, a slower-paced curriculum, or a more integrated curriculum, or a curriculum tailored to the child's interests, can be met through an individualized educational program focused on the home schooling experience.
- Believe individual social or emotional needs of their students may not be successfully addressed in a traditional classroom setting.
- Have a unique educational philosophy.
- Feel that the acquisition of traditional family values is an integral part of their child's education.

Racial and Ethnic Balance

Glacier High School Charter will strive to maintain racial and ethnic balance among its pupils that is reflective of the general populations within the territorial jurisdiction of the Yosemite Unified School District.

Statement of Non-Discriminatory Practices

Glacier High School Charter will be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices and all other operations. Glacier High School Charter will not discriminate against any pupil on the basis of ethnicity, national origin, gender, or disability.

Glacier High School Charter shall not charge tuition.

Admissions Requirements

Glacier High School Charter identifies the following admission requirements:

1. Pupils will be considered for admission without regard to ethnicity, national origin, gender, or disability.
2. Admission will not be determined according to the place of residence of the students or parents.
3. Prior to students and parents being admitted into Glacier High School Charter, they will be required to:

- a. Read the Glacier High School Charter philosophies as outlined in the GHSC Parent Handbook.
- b. Verify that their participation in the charter school is strictly voluntary.
- c. Sign an agreement that must stipulate all of the following:
 - 1) Parents, or other responsible adults, shall be available to be the primary teacher of the student and that it is the parent's responsibility to ensure that this occurs.
 - 2) Parents, or other responsible adults, are involved in academic oversight and support of the student.
 - 3) Parent, or other responsible adult, and student must attend scheduled progress meetings.
 - 4) Parent will sign and promptly submit appropriate attendance records to school attendance clerk.

Measurable Pupil Outcomes

Annual individual goals and objectives for each student will be written collaboratively by student, parent and charter teacher. The basis for these will be Glacier High School Charter's high school graduation requirements. Those requirements shall be based upon the state standards and have been developed to align to the state standards. This will be accomplished with the understanding that the nature of homeschooling may require modification of the goals and objectives throughout the school year. Student progress toward completion of goals will be monitored every 1 to 4 weeks by the charter teacher.

These student exit outcomes will be further subdivided into a list of specific "classroom-level" skills required in each of the above areas at different grade and skill levels. These specific grade and skill-level standards will incorporate those included in the Yosemite Unified School District standards, the California state content and performance standards. Students wishing to enroll in a public university in California will have the opportunity to pursue a course of study at the Glacier High School Charter that meets the "A-G Requirements."

In order to best serve our students and community, the Glacier High School Charter will continue to examine and refine its list of student outcomes over time to reflect the school's mission and any changes to state or local standards that support such mission. The Glacier

High School Charter will submit to the district board at any time prior to expiration a description of any changes to the above student outcomes as an amendment of the charter. The district board agrees to hear and render an amendment decision pursuant to the timelines and processes as specified in the Education Code Section 47605(b).

Methods of Measuring Student Progress

The methods by which student progress may be assessed are:

- Beginning and end of year standards assessment using the North West Evaluation Association.
- Collection and review of student work every 1 to 4 weeks.
- Demonstration of skills (oral reading, oral and visual presentations, acting, athletic, etc.).
- Parent/teacher and charter teacher observation and formal and informal assessments.
- Participation in the required state testing.
- Completion of the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE).
- Annual Personalized Learning Portfolio.
- Monthly journals summarizing student learning (work, activities, practice, accomplishments, etc.) (optional).
- Criterion referenced tests (optional).
- Other tests (to be determined).

Charter teachers will record the assessments of individual student work in the GHSC Personalized Learning Plan. These plans will be placed in the students' Personalized Learning Portfolio and kept on file in the Glacier High School Charter's office.

Students of Glacier High School Charter will demonstrate the following skills upon graduation:

1. CORE ACADEMIC SKILLS

Students will demonstrate appropriate age or grade-level mastery of:

History/Social Studies: Students will understand and apply civic, historical, and geographical knowledge in order to serve as citizens in today's world of diverse cultures.

Mathematics: Students will develop abilities to reason logically and to understand and apply mathematical processes and concepts, including those within arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and other mathematical subjects which the staff and school governing board deem appropriate.

Language Arts: Students will demonstrate strong reading, writing, listening, speaking, and presentation skills, in multiple forms of expression (e.g., written, oral, multimedia), with communication skills appropriate to the setting and audience. They will comprehend and critically interpret multiple forms of expression, including literature from various time periods and cultures.

Science: Students will successfully utilize scientific research and inquiry methods to understand and apply the major concepts underlying various branches of science, which may include physics, chemistry, biology, ecology, astronomy, and earth sciences.

Underlying and utilized throughout each of the above stated core subject areas will be other important academic skills such as: critical thinking skills: e.g., problem-solving, analyzing, and applying knowledge) the ability to effectively use technology.

- Creative expression through various forms of the arts, e.g., music, visual/studio arts, drama, and dance.
- Knowledge of pertinent issues of health and the development of physical fitness.

2. LIFE-LONG LEARNING SKILLS

Students will develop skills, which will enable them to pursue their own path of learning throughout their adult lives, including:

- Study skills and habits, e.g., note-taking, library research skills, studying strategies.
- Ability to plan, initiate, and complete a project.

- Ability to reflect on and evaluate one's own and others' learning.
- Job readiness and career development skills (e.g., developing resumes, job internship skills).
- Higher education continuance skills (e.g., college applications, financial aid forms).

3. SOCIAL SKILLS and LIFE SKILLS

Students will develop skills necessary for a healthy adult life, which may include:

- Strong citizenship and leadership skills by participating in student government or other areas of personal interest within the community.
- Ability to collaborate and work effectively with others in cooperative groups.
- Personal financial management skills (e.g., budget development, balancing checkbooks).

The outcomes will be further subdivided into specific content area and "classroom-level" skills and that individual students' progress toward achieving the graduation outcomes will be measured by certain benchmarks as indicated by the type of Graduation standard desired.

Types of Matriculation

Glacier High School Charter will offer two graduation certifications as follows:

1. Certificate of completion:

The certificate of completion will be awarded to any student who completes four years of work as agreed upon by the parent, student, and charter teacher and completes at least 260 credits.

2. Graduation Diploma:

The graduation diploma will be awarded to any student who completes four years of work as agreed upon by the parent, student, and charter teacher, passes the High

School Exit Exam, and completes at least 260 credits that includes:

- 4 years of English
- 3 years of Social Science (including World History, Cultures and Geography
US History; and US Government/Economics)
- 2 years of Mathematics including Algebra
- 2 years of science including 1 year of Physical Science and 1 year of Life
Science
- 1 year of Fine Arts – visual, performing arts (music or drama), or foreign
language
- 2 years of Physical Education
- 1 semester of Health
- 2 years of Career Education (10th grade and 11th grade)
- 3 years of electives to total 260 credits

Suspensions and Expulsions

Students of the Glacier High School Charter may be suspended or expelled from the charter school for persistent non-compliance with the terms of the charter school agreement and grounds provided for in the California Education Code. The procedures for discipline, suspension and expulsion will be identical to the procedures identified in the California Education Code and the Yosemite Unified School Districts Board Policy.

School Attendance Alternatives

The public school attendance alternatives for pupils not choosing to participate in the charter school are:

- The nearest traditional district public school.
- Other public schools within the district through intra-district transfer.
- Other public schools outside the district through inter-district transfer.

PARENTS:

Parent Involvement

In homeschooling, parents are the teachers, dedicated to their child's education. Glacier High School Charter has established an open-door philosophy to encourage parent input in planning, teaching, and organizing the GHSC program. Furthermore, as part of their agreement with the school, parents (or assigned responsible adult) will:

- Participate in an orientation meeting with the staff to discuss parent responsibility and to determine goals and objectives for their individual students.
- Oversee their children's education in all subject areas, keep a record of studies, and keep a file of student work.
- Schedule appointments and meet with the charter teacher and student at least once every one to four weeks, bringing record of studies and samples of work for each student.
- Be strongly encouraged to participate in a minimum of one school sponsored event or activity per semester.
- Keep current of events and activities offered at the school by any or all of the following means:
 - Reading GHSC monthly newsletter.
 - Listening to the voice mail bulletin, updated weekly.
 - Noting the school bulletin board for information.

EMPLOYEES:

Employee Qualifications

All charter school teachers must hold a valid California teaching credential as well as a knowledge and experience base identified on the job description of a charter school teacher. All core academic teachers will achieve compliance as highly qualified teachers as required by No Child Left Behind. While the Yosemite Unified School District may provide certain personnel and payroll services To the Glacier High School Charter pursuant to a separate Memorandum of Understanding, employees of the Charter shall gain no rights or seniority with the Yosemite Unified School District and be deemed as employees of the Charter. As such, the Yosemite Unified School District will have no authority over personnel selection. Such selection shall be at the discretion of the charter council. Terms of employment shall be defined by the charter council.

The Glacier High School Charter may also employ or retain non-certificated instructional support staff in any case where a prospective staff member has an appropriate mix of subject matter expertise, professional experience, and the demonstrated capacity to work successfully in an instructional support capacity. Instructional support staff will not assign grades or approve student work assignments without the approval of a teacher except in non-core or non-college preparatory courses and activities. All non-instructional staff will possess experience and expertise appropriate for their position within the school as outlined in the school's staffing plan and the school's adopted personnel policies.

Employee Rights

Employees of the Glacier High School Charter will work at the pleasure of the charter council. Certificated employees will be paid on a salary schedule as set forth by the Charter.

Student to Teacher Ratio

A full-time charter teacher will maintain a student to teacher ratio not to exceed 25:1 as defined by Education Code Section 51745.6 (e).

Charter teachers working less than full time will be limited to a student load reflecting the ratio of their employment to full-time employment. Stipends may be given for additional duties as per the Charter Council discretion.

Health and Safety Procedures

Glacier High School Charter will adopt and implement a comprehensive set of health, safety, and risk management policies. These policies will be developed in consultation with the school's insurance carriers and at a minimum will address the following topics:

- A requirement that all enrolling students and staff provide records documenting immunizations to the extent required for enrollment in non-charter public schools.
- Policies and procedures for response to natural disasters and emergencies, including fires and earthquakes.
- Policies relating to preventing contact with blood-borne pathogens.
- Policies relating to the administration of prescription drugs and other medicines.
- A policy that the school will be housed in facilities that meet local building and zoning ordinances.

- A policy establishing that the school functions as a drug, alcohol, and tobacco free workplace.
- A requirement that each employee of the school submit to a criminal background check and furnish a criminal record summary as required by Education Code Section 44237.

These policies will be incorporated as appropriate into the school's student and staff handbooks and will be reviewed on an ongoing basis in the school's staff development efforts and governing board policies.

Retirement Benefits

All employees of Glacier High School Charter will continue with the current retirement system provisions. Employees will continue to contribute at the rate established by the STRS or PERS.

The Yosemite Unified School District will process all employer contributions as required by STRS, PERS, or as required by law. The district will also process contributions where applicable, for workers compensation insurance, unemployment insurance, and any other payroll obligations of an employer, such sums to be part of the Glacier High School Charter budget. At no time will the funding of such contributions be the responsibility of the Yosemite Unified School District.

Governance

The Glacier High School Charter may constitute itself as a California Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation pursuant to California law. The school will be governed pursuant to the bylaws adopted by the school's governing board (Charter Council), as subsequently amended pursuant to the amendment process specified in the bylaws. The charter council's major roles and responsibilities will include establishing and approving all major educational and operational policies, approving all major contracts, approving the school's annual budget and overseeing the school's fiscal affairs, and selecting and evaluating the top administrative staff. The school's Charter Council will include parents, a teacher, a classified employee and the charter school administrator. The school's bylaws will also permit one representative of the governing board of the Yosemite Unified School District to serve on the school's governing board.

The Glacier High School Charter will be non-sectarian in its programs, admissions policies, employment practices, and all other operations, shall not charge tuition, and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, or disability.

The administrator of the charter school, or his/her designee, may report to district board of trustees at its regular board meetings.

Special Education

The Glacier High School Charter and Yosemite Union High School District pledge to work in cooperation with all local education agencies (LEAs) and special education local plan areas (SELPA) to ensure that a free and appropriate education is provided to all students with exceptional needs.

Glacier High School Charter intends to function as a "public school of the local education agency that granted the charter" for purposes of providing special education and related services pursuant to Education Code Section 47641(b). During each school year during which the school operates as an arm of the district for special education purposes, the school shall pay to the district an amount of funding per unit of average daily attendance equal to the district's direct costs of providing special education and related services minus the district's revenues from all special education and transportation funding sources. In return, the district shall provide the school with all funding and/or services reasonably necessary to ensure that all students with exceptional needs who attend the school are provided a free and appropriate education.

Facilities

At this time the Glacier High School Charter wishes to be housed in the facility being used by the Mountain Home School Charter associated with the Bass Lake Joint Union Elementary School District. The Glacier High School Charter waives no facilities rights as accorded by the State of California. The Glacier High School Charter may negotiate and be granted the exclusive use of additional property and facility as may become available from the Yosemite Unified School District. The Glacier High School and Yosemite Unified School District agree to comply with state law with regard to facilities.

Financial Agreement

Memorandum of Understanding

It is the intention of the Glacier High School Charter to continue in the Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") currently established with Yosemite Unified School District

which sets forth the respective responsibilities of the District and Charter School with respect to special education services, financial practices, and personnel and other administrative services.

Financial (and Programmatic) Audit

Glacier High School will arrange for an annual audit through the Memorandum of Understanding with Yosemite Unified School District. The audit will be conducted by the same firm used by Yosemite Unified School District. The audit will verify the accuracy of the school's financial statements, attendance and enrollment, accounting practices, and review the school's internal controls. The audit will be conducted in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles applicable to the school. To the extent required under applicable federal law, the audit scope will be expanded to include items and processes specified in any applicable Office of Management and Budget Circulars. It is anticipated that the annual audit will be completed within six months of the close of the fiscal year and that a copy of the auditor's findings will be forwarded to the chief financial officer of the Yosemite Unified School District. The school's audit committee will review any audit exceptions or deficiencies and report to the school's board of directors with recommendations on how to resolve them. The board will report to the charter-granting agency regarding how the exceptions and deficiencies have been or will be resolved. Any disputes regarding the resolution of audit exceptions and deficiencies will be referred to the dispute resolution process contained in Dispute resolution.

Dispute Resolution Process, Oversight, Reporting, and Renewal

- **Intent**

The intent of this dispute resolution process is to: (1) resolve disputes within the school pursuant to the school's policies, (2) minimize the oversight burden on the district, (3) ensure a fair and timely resolution to disputes, and (4) frame a charter oversight and renewal process and timeline so as to avoid disputes regarding oversight and renewal matters.

- **Disputes Arising from within the School**

Disputes arising from within the School, including all disputes among and between students, staff, parents, volunteers, advisors, partner organizations, and governing board members of the school, shall be resolved pursuant to policies and processes developed by the school.

- **Disputes between the School and the Charter-Granting Agency**

In the event that the school or granting agency have disputes regarding the terms of this charter, both parties agree to follow the process outlined below.

In the event of a dispute between the school and the grantor, the staff and governing board members of the school and district agree to first frame the issue in written format and refer the issue to the superintendent of the district and director of the school.

The principal and superintendent shall informally meet and confer in a timely fashion to attempt to resolve the dispute. In the event that this informal meeting fails to resolve the dispute, both parties shall identify two governing board members from their respective boards who shall jointly meet with the superintendent of the district and director of the school and attempt to resolve the dispute. If this joint meeting fails to resolve the dispute, the superintendent and director shall meet to jointly identify a neutral, third party arbitrator. The format of the arbitration session shall be developed jointly by the superintendent and director, and shall incorporate informal rules of evidence and procedure unless both parties agree otherwise. The findings or recommendations of the arbitrator shall be non-binding, unless the governing boards of the school and grantor jointly agree to bind themselves.

Oversight, Reporting, Revocation, and Renewal

The Yosemite Unified School District may inspect or observe any part of the school at any time.

Term of the Charter

The term of this charter shall begin on July 1, 2007 and expire five years June 30, 2012. The Charter may be renewed as allowed by law.

Amendments

Any amendments to this charter shall be made by the mutual agreement of the governing boards of the charter school and charter-granting agency. Material revisions and amendments shall be made pursuant to the standards, criteria, and timelines in Education Code Section 47605.

Severability

The terms of this charter contract are severable. In the event that any of the provisions are determined to be unenforceable or invalid for any reason, the remainder of the charter shall remain in effect, unless mutually agreed otherwise by the Yosemite Unified School District and Glacier Charter Council. The district and school agree to meet to discuss and resolve any issues or differences relating to invalidated provisions in a timely, good faith fashion.

Labor Relations

The Glacier High School Charter shall be deemed the exclusive public school employer of the employees of the charter school for the purposes of the Education Employment Relations Act.

Closure

In the event that Glacier High School Charter closes, the assets and liabilities of the school will be integrated into those of Yosemite Unified School District and will be audited as part of the audit specified above (p.13 Financial Audit). The pupil records will be maintained by Yosemite Unified School District.