

**Abstract: Sage Charter School (SCS), a New Mexico K-12 Montessori Charter School**

**What is Montessori...**Montessori is an educational approach from birth to adulthood. The philosophy encourages exposure to diverse cultures and acquisition of respect for that diversity. Montessori schools are found worldwide, serving students from birth through high school. Montessori education is known for its comprehensive curriculum, hands-on learning materials and a philosophy geared to meeting the needs of the “whole-child.” Montessori is also the most copied educational method.

This school looks to authentically and successfully utilize this educational approach. Montessori education has traditionally been reserved as a private school education. Sage Charter School would like to be Albuquerque’s first K-12 charter school offering a private Montessori school education in a public school setting for no fee. We believe that by providing an authentic Montessori school, Albuquerque students will have the opportunity to make the list of successful graduates that include Ann Frank, Shirley Temple, Jeff Brazos (Amazon.com) and the “Google boys” who founded the search engine Google.

The school’s K-12 Montessori curriculum choice is completely aligned to the NM Benchmarks and Standards and Student Performance requirements. As soon as the school is approved, SCS will purchase the aligned K-12 curriculum correlation from Montessori Made Manageable, (MMM) Inc. To assist the school in its accountability to the curriculum, SCS will also purchase student monitoring cards, homework sheets, report cards and teacher lesson plan books that parallel the aligned curriculum. Before or upon the opening of school, SCS staff will be trained by MMM on the proper usage of the curriculum and teachers documentation tools.

The authors of this charter are also collaborating with MMM to develop an electronic data collection system to work with the curriculum formatted on the Student Monitoring Form. This data collection system will be done on line by teachers and go into each student’s records for processing. We understand that the new prototype will be finished soon.

The school will open with grades K-8<sup>th</sup> and then add one additional grade level each year to reach grade 12 in 2014. Student groupings will be in the traditional Montessori three year age spans. Because Kindergarten is traditionally the third year of Montessori preschool, the school may be applying to add pre-K after the school has been approved. The school will serve 299 New Mexico students by providing a comprehensive educational approach using the Montessori Method of education with accelerated math and science programs

At the time of the writing of this application, Sage Charter School (SCS) is considering several location options. Ideally, we will be well-situated for easy accessibility to I-25, I-40 and public transportation. The school’s ideal facilities would be designed to separately house four different levels but within enough proximity to make the grounds feel and work like a campus with shared facilities. The campus design for a small K-12 school is ideal for developing a sense of shared community and at the same time allowing enough space for each group to function independently and successfully. Because several board members have extensive experience in school design and land development projects, the board feels confident they can develop a suitable property for the school. Other board members have knowledge and expertise in administration, finance, grant writing and K-12 Montessori education to oversee the running of the school.

The Sage Charter School board is pleased to present this charter application to the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED). The board is dedicated, experienced and has the ability to provide the community with an authentic, first class, K-12, Montessori academy.