

math curriculums, materials, resources, and math curriculum writing and assessment will be important. We will purchase all curricular materials and resources needed for the school's opening in September 2014.

Teachers, administrators, and governance board members will participate in school visits, PBL conferences, and the WISN conference in March 2014. We will also develop a framework for a daily schedule that is congruent with the school's PBL learning and interdisciplinary teaching model.

We will plan for and transition from a Charter Planning Board to the River Oak Governance Board, a non-stock corporation, by September 2013 with articles of incorporation by December 1, 2013. We will begin to develop community partnerships and a community resource guide to enhance learning opportunities and fulfill goals of the school.

The Closing of the Achievement Gap

A review of achievement data in reading and math revealed that Neenah Joint School District (NJSD) middle school students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and students with disabilities are performing below their peers as evidenced by standardized assessment measures. One measure, the 2011-12 Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam-Criterion Referenced Test (WKCE-CRT) with scores converted to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), showed that while 41% of all seventh and eighth grade students were proficient or advanced in reading, only 20% of students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and only 10% of students with disabilities were either proficient or advanced. For math, of all students, 55% scored proficient or advanced in math whereas 33% of students who are economically disadvantaged and 19% of students with disabilities were proficient or advanced.

WKCE-CRT converted NAEP	All students (Proficient or Advanced)	Economically disadvantaged (Proficient or Advanced)	Disabilities (Proficient or Advanced)
Reading	41%	20%	10%
Math	55%	33%	19%

River Oak Middle School will address the existing achievement gaps by establishing rigorous yet attainable annual achievement goals aimed at student growth. To achieve the goals the school will implement an instructional design that focuses on individual learning targets for students as evidence in the student's continually updated Personal Learning Plan. A key design element will be integrated units of study in a project-based learning model. Having students engaged in high interest projects with teachers collaborating around their learning needs will contribute to increased student achievement especially for students who have been struggling academically in traditional classroom settings. In addition, teachers will employ ongoing formative assessment to ensure instruction is targeted at student need. Disciplinary literacy strategies will be taught and reinforced to assist with achievement in all core and supportive areas. Finally, students will have opportunities for intervening services, should the need arise, that will complement the universal curriculum.

2. Attach 3 letters of support for the proposed charter school from parents and community members: Included.

Equal Access (Admissions and Lottery)

1. Provide a description of how your plan will assure equal access for all students regardless of gender, race, national origin, color, disability or age factors.

River Oak will strive to create and maintain a racial/ethnic balance that reflects the NJSD community. The staff and governance board will develop a plan to achieve equal access for all students, regardless of sex, race, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, pregnancy, or disability.

2. Provide a description of how students with disabilities will be served.

River Oak will be open to all students and will abide by IDEA guidelines. Students with identified special education needs will be admitted if River Oak can provide the support needed to meet their learning goals. Enrolled students with identified special education needs will be served in cooperation with the local education authority or host school to accommodate their IEPs.

3. Provide a description of how students and parents in the community will be informed about the charter school and given an equal opportunity to attend.

Each year, the NJSD Board of Education will notify all families in the district of the River Oak program, application process, and timeline. Every effort will be made to present and clarify options that are available for students via school and district communications (print and electronic) and local media. River Oak will host annual recruitment open houses prior to registration for the following school year. The staff and governance board will continue to consider and develop additional marketing efforts as needed.

4. Describe the admissions policy and any qualifications for admission that will be established.

The primary requirement for admission to the school is a timely submission of an enrollment application. River Oak will accept all students who apply by the deadline and for whom River Oak has adequate resources. Open enrollment requests will be considered per the Wisconsin Open Enrollment law if there are available vacancies. If the number of applications exceeds the number of spaces available, a lottery selection process will be used. The following applicants will be given enrollment priority and exempted from the lottery process: students already enrolled at River Oak; children of River Oak teachers; children of River Oak founders; siblings of current or former River Oak students.

The NJSD administration and a representative of River Oak will compile the enrollment roster for new students for the upcoming school year by March 15 (for in district students), and one week following close of open enrollment (for out-of-district students), and prospective River Oak parents will be notified within one week of that date, if possible.

5. Provide a description of a random lottery process to be implemented if more students apply for admission than can be accommodated in the charter school.

All students wishing to attend River Oak will complete an admission application. If the number of applications exceeds the number of vacancies, a fair and impartial lottery will be conducted.

a. River Oak is a school of choice and participation is entirely voluntary. Students will be accepted for admission into River Oak pursuant to the procedures set forth below. River Oak Governance Board will establish a date by which all applications (“applications date”) for enrollment in the school must be received in the District Enrollment Office. Any student entering 6th to 8th grade wishing to attend River Oak may make application to enroll. Applications will be available from the school website, office and District office. If the number of persons seeking admission exceeds the capacity of the open seats available, then a lottery shall be conducted by the River Oak Governance Board to select the individuals who will be assigned the open seats. A totally random selection will ensure fairness and equal access without regard to ethnicity, national origin, disability, gender, or income level.

- The River Oak Governance Board will perform the lottery, and it will be part of the school record.
- To be eligible for admission through this lottery-placement process, individuals must have submitted complete and valid enrollment applications by the end of the established registration window.
- Those students not accepted by the lottery will be placed on a priority waiting list in the order drawn. If or when openings occur, students will then be contacted in the order established by the lottery, or if no lottery is required, in the order applications were received.

b. Exemptions from the lottery shall be granted, in the following order:

- Siblings of students currently attending River Oak
- Children of founders of Charter: Catherine Holecko, Jean Maurice Boyer, Jodi Blank, Kara Allen, Kathleen Hallett, Kim Krause, Sonja Rusch, and Tracy Romzek (these exemptions would total no more than 15 students over 5 years)
- Children of River Oak faculty and/or staff (we anticipate these exemptions will total two or fewer per year)

c. River Oak will not be required to admit any student who is under a current expulsion order from a school district. Students cannot be placed at the school by the district.

Assurances

1. As required by section 427 of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA), describe proposed steps the grantee will take to ensure equitable access to, and participation in, the charter school. (The statute, which allows applicants discretion in developing the required description, highlights six types of barriers that can impede equitable access or participation: gender, race, national origin, color, disability, or age).

In your description, you may use local circumstances to determine the extent to which those or other barriers prevent equitable participation by students, teachers, parents, or other community members. The description need not be lengthy, but it should include a clear and succinct statement of how the applicant plans to address those barriers that are applicable to its circumstances.

River Oak will recruit students, parents, community members and teachers who would like to participate in the school in a manner that ensures equal access to the school and does not discriminate against participants of a particular race, color, national origin, religion, income level, language of origin, sexual orientation, or sex, or against those with disabilities. Potential barriers to access include lack of knowledge of the charter school as an option. This will be addressed through in-school presentations to 5th-grade students and both written and digital communication to all parents of students in the NJSD. Communication to the larger community of the Fox Cities will occur through public notices in the newspaper, through community partnerships, and printing of informational materials in Spanish.

Another barrier could be transportation. Students at River Oak, as other students in Neenah, do not have transportation services available if they live within the City of Neenah boundaries. Students at River Oak Middle School will qualify for bus service as other middle school students in the district (those who live outside the corporate limits of the City of Neenah, but within the boundaries of the District and who reside two or more miles from the middle school are eligible for bus service). Students may qualify for transportation if they reside less than two miles from the middle school if unusual hazards exist for such students walking to and from school or if such students are disabled and qualify for special transportation services.

Cultural factors, including parents' socioeconomic status and level of education, could be another potential barrier: Efforts will be made to be culturally sensitive, and to reach out to those with different cultural and at-risk socioeconomic backgrounds through intentional marketing and through community partnerships.

2. Provide an assurance that the charter school will not charge tuition. The charter school will not charge tuition. There will be student fees similar to those charged to other Neenah middle school students. There are likely to be additional fees for field site visits into the community. The Charter Council will work to fundraise to help offset costs. The district has funds available to assist families who may have difficulty financially in paying student fees.

3. Provide an assurance that the charter school will be non-sectarian. River Oak will be non-sectarian in its programs, admissions, policies, employment practices, and other operations.

The Budget:

1. Describe the methods by which controls over expenditures and records will be maintained.

River Oak Middle School will be an instrumentality of the Neenah Joint School District. As such, the NJSD financial audit shall include all River Oak-related revenues received and recorded by the District and expenditures paid out during each fiscal year. The following procedures shall be followed:

- a. NJSD shall set up and maintain a separate set of revenue and expenditure accounts.
- b. The River Oak Governance Board shall maintain its own set of financial records for monies it has received and disbursed in accordance with financial accounting reporting requirements of Wisconsin non-profit organizations.
- c. Not later than August 15 of each year, the River Oak Governance Board shall submit to the NJSD an end-of-the-year financial reconciliation for the previous fiscal year. This report shall include a statement of income and expenses, balance sheet, and statement of contributions received. This applies only to funds that have been received and held by the River Oak non-profit Governance Board.
- d. Federal and State grant awards shall be administered by the NJSD on behalf of the River Oak in accordance with the provisions of the approved grant application.

2. Provide a plan on how the school's innovative offerings including professional development will be sustained and continued after the charter school grant expires. The school's innovative offerings and professional development will continue after the grant expires by use of district allocations for curriculum materials, technology, library and media, and professional development. The school will take advantage of the professional development afternoons and days already budgeted into the district yearly calendar to provide ongoing training specific to the school's methodology and curriculum, as well as sharing common resources and training with other district staff. Yearly conference attendance by teachers will

be supported through fundraising by the River Oak Governance Board, through application for funding through the district and other local resources.

3. Provide a list of itemized expenditures in the Local Plan For Use of Discretionary Funds (see Section VII-A of the planning sub-grant application form PI-9600-P) including specific items and the cost of items that will be purchased.

Narrative follows; see PI-9600-P form as well.

River Oak Middle School - Planning Grant Financial Narrative (\$225,000)

Faculty curriculum development (extended contracts) \$50,000

Core teachers will receive training in PBL and ILC through the use of consultants and with the Buck Institute. They will research best practices in leadership, community building, technology integration, and literacy. Spanish and math curriculums will be intensively developed and adapted to the project-based curriculum. Core teachers also receive training in Project Foundry, an online project based learning management system. Core teachers are allocated time to integrate core subjects together into an interdisciplinary approach as well as time to coordinating partnerships with local businesses and organizations.

Buck Institute PBL training \$13,000

The curriculum development team and governance board will receive PBL training. The Buck Institute training costs will consist of a 3-day PBL 101 and a 1-day PBL 201 session. Total costs consist of Buck Institute fees of \$13,000. 6 core teachers and 8 specialists will be trained in PBL. Immersing these specialists in training and in PBL school visits allows them to partner with the core teachers in the project-based curriculum development. The specialists represent art, business information & technology, technology & engineering, wellness & health education, special education, literacy coaching, Spanish, and math intervention.

Project Foundry \$5,000

Project Foundry project management system set-up and training.

Technology, equipment, and furnishing needed to accomplish charter goals \$77,000

- \$15,000 for a HD Video Conference system
- \$26,000 to purchase instructional resources specific to teaching and integrated project-based curriculum, including but not limited to:
 - Reference materials on project-based learning
 - Digital and print resources
 - Literacy materials to support integrated instruction
 - STEM - Science lab equipment and materials
- \$14,000 to equip classroom with technology and resources including printer, scanners, digital cameras, video camcorders and a laminator
- \$12,000 for classroom furniture selected for optimal collaboration
- \$5,000 for purchase of classroom materials for Spanish curriculum
- \$5,000 for purchase of classroom materials for math curriculum

Professional development \$20,000

Professional development during the planning year in a wide range of workshops, trainings and conferences. School visits fees, substitute teachers, travel costs for faculty, governance board, and consultants.

Charter planning grant coordinator \$10,000

To ensure coordination of the varied activities such as school visits, training and development, governance development, marketing and communication, and other planning grant activities to meet planning year objectives.

Charter consultants \$21,350

Year-long charter consultant to provide 40-45 dates of consulting in all aspects of planning year development, including school design and pedagogy, governance development, curriculum development, charter contract, marketing and enrollment, and other associated aspects of planning leading to a successful implementation.

Establish, develop, and train governance board \$11,000

Governance training and development consultant fees (\$7,000), governance board 1-day visits to (2) PBL schools - costs of mileage/food/lodging (\$500), WISN conference fees/mileage/food/lodging (\$3,500)

Charter school contract \$5,900

Create/negotiate the charter school contract with the district. \$5,000 in legal fees and \$900 in supplies and meeting materials.

Marketing: community awareness and support for the project-based charter school \$5,000

Design marketing and promotional materials such as: logo, signs, brochures and website.

Wisconsin Innovative Schools Network \$6,750

Three percent to WISN for statewide networking, conference, consulting and support. In addition, the 4 core teachers, an administrator and 3 board members will attend the WISN conference in March 2014.

Complete the Budget Summary (VII-B Phase I and VII Phase II) in the planning subgrant application form.

Attach the expenditure and revenues worksheets to the application and designate the year to which they apply. Only the Expense and Revenue Worksheets must be included.

Appendix A
Neenah Joint School District's River Oak Middle School - Charter School Expenses
Annual Five Year Projections

Line	ITEM	TOTAL COST Year 1	TOTAL COST Year 2	TOTAL COST Year 3	TOTAL COST Year 4	TOTAL COST Year 5
	SALARIES AND WAGES					
1	ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF SALARIES AND WAGES (grant year 1 only)	\$ 9,044	\$ 25,400			
2	CLASSROOM STAFF SALARIES & WAGES (not grant funded)		198,400			
3	EXTENDED CONTRACT-STAFF SALARY AND WAGES	48,000	28,700	24,900	12,900	12,900
4	BUILDING MAINTENANCE STAFF SALARIES AND WAGES					
5	SECURITY STAFF SALARIES AND WAGES					
6	FOOD SERVICES STAFF SALARIES AND WAGES					
7	PUPIL TRANSPORTATION STAFF SALARIES AND WAGES					
8	TOTAL SALARIES AND WAGES	57,044	252,500	24,900	12,900	12,900
	FICA AND MEDICARE TAXES					
9	ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF FICA & MEDICARE TAXES (grant only year 1)	692	1,940	2,000	2,075	2,140
10	CLASSROOM STAFF FICA & MEDICARE TAXES (not grant funded)		15,200	23,500	24,325	25,150
3	EXTENDED CONTRACT-STAFF FICA & MEDICARE TAXES	3,672	1,836	1,836	918	918
11	BUILDING MAINTENANCE STAFF FICA & MEDICARE TAXES					
12	SECURITY STAFF FICA & MEDICARE TAXES					
13	FOOD SERVICES STAFF FICA & MEDICARE TAXES					
14	PUPIL TRANSPORTATION STAFF FICA & MEDICARE TAXES					
15	OTHER STAFF FICA & MEDICARE TAXES					
16	TOTAL FICA AND MEDICARE TAXES	4,364	18,976	27,336	27,318	28,208
	UNEMPLOYMENT TAXES					
17	ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF UNEMPLOYMENT TAXES					
18	CLASSROOM STAFF UNEMPLOYMENT TAXES					
19	BUILDING MAINTENANCE STAFF UNEMPLOYMENT TAXES					
20	SECURITY STAFF UNEMPLOYMENT TAXES					
21	FOOD SERVICES STAFF UNEMPLOYMENT TAX & PAYMENTS					
22	PUPIL TRANSPORTATION STAFF UNEMPLOYMENT TAXES					
23	OTHER STAFF UNEMPLOYMENT TAXES					
24	TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT TAXES	-0	-0	-0	-0	-0
	EMPLOYER PAID BENEFITS					
25	ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF EMPLOYER PAID BENEFITS (grant year 1 only)	601	7,260	7,600	7,925	8,260
26	CLASSROOM STAFF EMPLOYER PAID BENEFITS (partially grant funded)	2,953	60,196	92,696	95,298	98,698

Appendix A
Neenah Joint School District's River Oak Middle School - Charter School Expenses
Annual Five Year Projections

27	BUILDING MAINTENANCE EMPLOYER PAID BENEFITS					
28	SECURITY STAFF EMPLOYER PAID BENEFITS					
29	FOOD SERVICES STAFF EMPLOYER PAID BENEFITS					
30	PUPIL TRANSPORTATION STAFF EMPLOYER PAID BENEFITS					
31	OTHER STAFF EMPLOYER PAID BENEFITS					
32	TOTAL EMPLOYER PAID BENEFITS	3,554	67,456	100,296	103,223	106,958
	CONTRACTED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES					
33	ACCOUNTING SERVICES					
	<i>IDENTIFY NAME OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES PROVIDER BELOW</i>					
33a						
34	INDEPENDENT AUDITING SERVICES					
	<i>IDENTIFY NAME OF INDEPENDENT AUDITING SERVICES PROVIDER BELOW</i>					
34a						
35	EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANT SERVICES	35,000	60,000	60,000	0	0
36	LEGAL SERVICES	5,000	5,000	5,000	0	0
37	OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	23,250	11,250	15,250	4,200	4,200
38	TOTAL CONTRACTED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	63,250	76,250	80,250	4,200	4,200
Line	ITEM					
	PURCHASED OPERATIONAL SERVICES					
39	TELEPHONE					
40	INTERNET ACCESS					
41	ELECTRICITY					
42	GAS FOR FACILITY OPERATION					
43	EQUIPMENT MAINTAINANCE AND REPAIR					
44	BUILDING MAINTENANCE					
45	BUILDING REPAIR					
46	OTHER BUILDING OPERATION EXPENSE					
47	FOOD SERVICE PREPARATION AND MEALS					
48	SECURITY SERVICES					
49	CONTRACTOR OPERATED PUPIL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES (not grant funded)		32,338	46,507	46,507	46,507
50	PUPIL TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR					
51	OTHER VEHICLE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR					
52	OTHER PURCHASED OPERATIONAL SERVICES (partially grant funded)	18,576	3,164	4,014	6,414	6,414
53	TOTAL PURCHASED OPERATIONAL SERVICES	18,576	35,502	50,521	52,921	52,921

Schedule 2 Operating Expense

Appendix B
Neenah Joint School District's River Oak Middle School - Charter School Revenues
Annual Five Year Projections

LINE	REVENUE ITEMS	TOTAL REVENUES Year 1	TOTAL REVENUES Year 2	TOTAL REVENUES Year 3	TOTAL REVENUES Year 4	TOTAL REVENUES Year 5
	CONTRACT AMOUNT & CONTRIBUTIONS					
1	CONTRACT AMOUNT					
2	OPERATORS' SUBSIDY or CONTRIBUTION		342,800	507,450	523,175	538,700
3	FUND RAISING OR EXTERNAL CONTRIBUTIONS		6,038	9,057	31,737	31,737
4	TOTAL TUTION & CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 0	\$ 348,838	\$ 516,507	\$ 554,912	\$ 570,437
	SCHOOL FEES					
5	BOOK & SUPPLY FEES					
6	PERSONAL USE ITEMS					
7	SOCIAL AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR FEES					
8	TOTAL SCHOOL FEES	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
	FOOD SERVICE REVENUES					
9	MEAL AND OTHER FOOD SERVICE CHARGES					
10	GOVERNMENT FUNDED FOOD SERVICE ASSISTANCE					
11	TOTAL FOOD SERVICE REVENUES	- 0	- 0	- 0	- 0	- 0
	OTHER GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS: List Below					
12a	PLANNING GRANT	\$ 225,000				
12b	IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS		225,000	225,000		
12c						
13	TOTAL OTHER GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS	\$ 225,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 0	\$ 0
14	INVESTMENT INCOME					
15	RENTAL OF FACILITIES TO OTHERS					
	OTHER: Describe Below					
16a						
16b						
17	TOTAL OTHER	- 0	- 0	- 0	- 0	- 0
18	TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 225,000	\$ 573,838	\$ 741,507	\$ 554,912	\$ 570,437

Appendix A
Neenah Joint School District's River Oak Middle School - Charter School Expenses
Annual Five Year Projections

	FACILITY OCCUPANCY CHARGE					
54	FACILITY RENT					
	IDENTIFY TO WHOM RENT IS PAID (Enter on line below)					
55	TOTAL FACILITY OCCUPANCY CHARGE					
	SUPPLIES					
56	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPLIES (grant year 1 only)	900	500	500	500	500
57	CLASSROOM SUPPLIES (partially grant funded)	36,312	12,500	8,750	8,750	8,750
58	BUILDING MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES					
59	SECURITY OPERATIONS SUPPLIES					
60	FOOD SERVICE SUPPLIES					
61	PUPIL TRANSPORTATION SUPPLIES					
62	OTHER SUPPLIES	41,000	110,154	114,954	- 0	- 0
63	TOTAL SUPPLIES	78,212	123,154	124,204	9,250	9,250
	INSURANCE					
64	INSURANCE					
65	TOTAL INSURANCE	- 0	- 0	- 0	- 0	- 0
	OTHER					
66	OTHER EXPENSES (ATTACH ITEMIZATION IF AMOUNT ON LINE IS OVER \$500)					
67	TOTAL OTHER	- 0	- 0	- 0	- 0	- 0
68	INTEREST EXPENSE CURRENT CASH FLOW DEBT					
69	TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 225,000	\$ 573,838	\$ 407,507	\$ 209,812	\$ 214,437

Gudrun Danielson
1230 Lynrose Lane
Neenah, WI 54956

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Charter School Review Team
P.O. Box 7841
Madison, WI 53701-7841

To the Charter School Review Team:

As the parent of three school-age children in the Neenah Public School District, I am excited about the possibility of the formation of a middle school that centers on integrated curriculum and project-based learning. I think it would be a welcome addition to both our school district, and our community. Some of the reasons for this are as follows:

1. Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary presentations of the material allow the student to be immersed in an authentic way of learning, because it reflects actual experience, rather than passive reception of information.
2. These educational methods lead to a more sophisticated understanding of the material, because they use multiple aspects that are thematically related.
3. The skills that are promoted by these learning methods are valuable in today's job market: critical thinking, collaboration, structured and coherent presentation of data, time management and project management.
4. Teachers maintain accountability while designing a unique curriculum that educates in every area while maintaining both student interest and relevance to issues in every day life.
5. The community link provides a strong base for these students as they negotiate a transitional period in their lives, no longer young children, but not yet adult. It allows students to see themselves as a working part of their community, and delivers tangible results that offer both clarity of purpose, and pride in achievement.

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Gudrun Danielson



920-720-0662
gudrund@yahoo.com

3/20/13

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Charter School Team
P.O. Box 7841
Madison, WI 53701-7841

I am writing in support of the proposed charter middle school, River Oak Middle School in Neenah, WI. I understand that a planning committee is working to design and acquire funding to propose an innovative middle school which would compliment the excellent educational system that the Neenah School District currently offers. The vision of River Oak to offer a liberal arts education with an emphasis on project-based learning is very appealing to me as both a parent and an active member of the business community.

With three children of my own, ages ranging from 8-13, I am very aware of the needs of middle school students and parents. River Oak will offer an educational program that emphasizes the student's own investigative learning and supports self-initiated topics through use of a project-based structure. I see the greatest depth of knowledge gained by my own children when they are engrossed and engaged in a topic that peaks their interest; so I know that allowing students to have a choice in the direction of their learning is a critical key to success.

In addition, the skills that are acquired by students who actively work in small groups to accomplish a long-term task are invaluable to their future in the workplace. Teaching necessary business proficiencies such as collaboration and the ability to use technology across the globe to achieve results is a must in any school's curriculum that is focusing on developing a future workforce. With project-based learning, the students of River Oak would be provided with a solid foundation in which to master the demands of high school, college, and the workplace.

Please join me in supporting the community members who are initiating River Oak Middle School in Neenah, WI by providing a planning grant to assist with advancing the designs and plans for this innovative school.

Sincerely,



Tammy Tatro
1378 Martingale Lane
Neenah, WI 54956
(920) 751-0744

Release Manager, Jewelers Mutual Insurance Company
ttatro@jminsure.com



Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Charter School Team
P.O. Box 7841
Madison, WI 53701-7841

February 27, 2013

Dear Charter School Team Member:

I am writing this letter of support for the Neenah Joint School District's Charter School initiative. I have lived in the Neenah Community for more than 40 years and have been employed by the District for more than 25 years. I give my total and unequivocal support to this wonderful educational option for our students.

I have been the principal at Roosevelt Elementary and Alliance Charter School in Neenah for the past 5 years. Alliance is currently Neenah's only Charter School and we have a Montessori based curriculum and philosophy. As professionals, we understand that all children learn differently and that we need to meet the needs of all of our students. I have seen first hand the incredible academic and social benefits that come to our students at Alliance Charter. Alliance students score at the top of our District on the WKCE Examination. Additionally, Alliance received a "Significantly Exceeding Expectations" on the recently released DPI Report Card, and was just named one of nine schools in the state to receive both the Wisconsin Title-I High Achieving and High Progress Awards.

I have first hand knowledge and experience working alongside the incredibly passionate and dedicated core group of parents who are spearheading our Charter Middle School initiative, many of whom are current parents at Alliance, and some of whom were on the original Grant writing and planning team for Alliance. This core group of parents have the history, drive, and dedication to make this Charter Middle School a thriving, successful reality.

This Charter Middle School will be an incredible asset to our District, offering a wonderful alternative for middle school students and contributing to the high quality education which the students in our District currently receive.

Sincerely,

Philip R. Johnson, Principal, Roosevelt and Alliance Charter