

Subject: Capacity Interview

Dear Members of the Wyoming Charter School Authorizing Board,

We sincerely express our gratitude for the opportunity to meet in person and answer questions about our Charter Application. We hope you all know how truly grateful we are for your service in this capacity.

We chose this model of Charter School with the intention of creating a different and innovative charter school that aligns with Governor Gordon's call of "Reimagining and Innovating the Delivery of Education" RIDE. We recognize this model is a paradigm shift. To quote Governor Gordon in the most recent press release for his RIDE Pilot program supporting Student-Centered Learning, "this paradigm shift could provide a unique opportunity for students, educators and parents to partner in the creation of a purposeful, engaging education experience that prepares students for the future." As you consider our application and the following comments to clarify a few of the questions, we implore you to consider our answer to the Governor's call.

***How will Vitalis Charter Academy students be able to utilize the Hathaway and how will we ensure credits for courses such as: foreign language, performing arts, or CTE courses?**

VCA will provide high school credits for all courses completed by ensuring that they meet state standards and are relevant and rigorous. Credits will be awarded based on the number of hours spent on the course and/or body of work completed, including both instructional time and hands-on practice. Students will demonstrate proficiency through assessments, projects, and/or practical evaluations. This can include exams, portfolios, or skills demonstrations. Teachers of Foreign Language, Performing Arts, CTE or other Secondary area courses will be required to hold Wyoming teaching credentials through PTSB. Our Community Partners Program will give students access to industry experience to ensure high-quality experiences. All aspects of course development will be vetted through a school approval process to ensure they meet the educational and vocational standards necessary for the school to meet accreditation standards to issue course credits. All students at VCA who choose the College Preparation Path must complete a rigorous college prep course of study. These learning goals can be outlined and planned for in their Personalized Learning Plans as early as middle school. The same is true for those students who choose the General Education path of study and plan to enter a community college, trade or vocational school, or transition into the workforce after graduating high school. Progress towards these goals will be monitored and adjusted regularly.

Specifically, CTE instruction can be obtained in unique ways by VCA students because of the school model. Some ways this may be accomplished is through a flexible curriculum that is tailored to the individual student needs, allowing for personalized CTE courses that align with students' career interests. Curriculum options could be either online or in text book format including but not limited to: eDynamics, Academic Innovations, Glencoe, McGraw-Hill,

Globe-Fearon, Accelerate, Edgenuity, and more. By leveraging online platforms students will be able to access a wide range of subjects that allow them to pursue learning at their own pace. Partnerships with local businesses and industries will create hands-on learning opportunities, internships, and apprenticeships that enhance practical skills. For example students who are interested in Wood Products Manufacturing would be connected to lumber milling, woodworking, and the production of wood-based products or if interested in Food Processing would be connected to jobs in this sector involving the processing of agricultural products, including meat processing and dairy production. Students interested in Mining Equipment Manufacturing could pursue jobs related to the manufacture and maintenance of mining equipment or Energy production particularly from coal, oil, and natural gas. For students interested in tourism-related industries or craft and artisan products there are small-scale manufacturing opportunities focused on artisan crafts, including jewelry, textiles, and other local goods that cater to the tourism market. For students interested in Construction connections could be made with various local contractors in a variety of building materials. High School Teachers will also provide project-based learning opportunities embedded in their courses, where students work on real-world projects that apply technical skills in practical settings. Some courses will prepare students for industry certifications through programs such as: Coursera, edX, or local community colleges like Northwest College.

***Questions on Budgeting for Student Accounts/Instructional Funds?**

VCA will offer a robust technology solution that provides students, parents, teachers, and administrators access for ordering students instructional materials quickly and with full integrity. The school will provide a centralized online catalog of approved educational materials, including textbooks, software, online courses, and supplies. This ensures that students and families have access to quality resources. Students and their families can create user accounts to browse the catalog or view available items in the Curriculum Library. A budget management system will be employed. This feature allows families to view their allocated budgets for educational expenses and helps them stay within financial limits set by the school. An approval process will be required. Before purchases are finalized, all items will be required to be approved by a designated staff member and administrator to ensure they align with the student's personalized learning plan and state standards for courses taken. Upon approval a PO is created and tracked by our financial services department. Once an order is placed, the system will allow users to track the status of purchases, including shipping details and estimated delivery dates. The system manages payment processing and integrates with the school's Learning Management System (LMS) to streamline access to purchased resources and track their usage in relation to student progress. The system can also generate reports for school administrators, providing insights into spending trends and resource utilization, which can inform future purchasing decisions and curriculum planning. It was our intention to provide only the industry's best solutions for this process and have chosen thus.

***Question regarding mediation between VCA and WCSAB?**

In Section I.B. of the Application, titled Dispute between the Charter School and WCSAB, we would request to retract this information. It was written for a previous version of the application

that was to be submitted to the School District and is not appropriate for this application. In addition, we would like to assure this board that VCA will work with WCSAB to ensure that all laws, rules and regulations are followed.

In closing we hope to have answered your questions about this Charter School application and will recognize its potential to reinvigorate education in our community and in time our state. As you could see from our public comment meeting, this topic is deeply personal and has long lasting implications.

This school choice model will empower families to select the educational environment that best meets their children's unique needs that can foster a more personalized learning experience. This flexibility will lead to increased student engagement and improved academic outcomes, as families can choose a school option that aligns with their values, interests, and aspirations. It is essential to ensure that all families have equitable access to these choices, regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location allowing every student the opportunity to thrive.

Thank you for considering our Charter School application.

Sincerely,

The Founding Board
Vitalis Charter Academy
307-272-5223