

Letter of Intent

Identification Information:

Name of Potential School if determined: Park Valley Community School

Name of Primary Contact: Mike Malone

Phone Number: (260) 433.9373

E-mail: mmalone@mosaicaeducation.com

Park Valley Community School

Park Valley Community School will serve 250 students in grades pre-K-5 in our first year of operation growing to pre-K-8 by adding an additional grade level per year (ages 4-14). Park Valley Community School will be located at 4342 Mitthoeffer Road, Indianapolis, IN 46229, a zip code that is in need of a high performing pre-K-8 school and will serve an estimated 450 students at full enrollment.

The ***Mission*** of Park Valley Community School is to create generations of great problem solvers.

The ***Vision*** of Park Valley Community School is to foster in every child the ability to become a creative problem solver and critical thinker through the following:

- An educational program that provides a strong academic foundation to enable all children to pursue their post-secondary goals.
- Implementation of Paragon[®], an innovative, interdisciplinary world culture curriculum that follows a student-centered, personalized approach to learning that combines constructivism with core concepts. The constructivist theory views learners as the architects of their own knowledge. Children of all academic levels will discover concepts on their own through hands-on activities, role-play, lively readings, artistic creativity, oratory, integrated technology and multimedia materials.
- A school environment that encourages creative thinking through experiential learning tied to rich course content.
- A school climate that engages family and community members in student projects through Paragon Open House nights that showcase student work in the form of art exhibits, theater productions, STEM design projects, and written work; math and literacy nights and Saturday Create Days where families work together to build projects; and parent involvement opportunities that go beyond typical home-school relationships to engage parents in the mission of our school, creation of hands-on projects, and donation of their time for project based learning.

School Goals

Student Achievement Goals:

- 1) As reported to the authorizer by June 30th of each year, kindergarten and first grade students attending the school for the full year and each subsequent full year will make 1.25 years' worth of growth in the aggregate by grade on the Reading and Math portions of the Scantron Performance Series.
- 2) As reported to the authorizer by June 30th of each year, students in grades 2-8, attending the school for at least a full year, will make 1.25 years' worth of growth in the aggregate by grade on the Reading, ELA and Math portions of the Scantron Performance Series between the beginning and the end of each year.

School Climate Goals:

- 1) The school climate will foster student creativity and innovation as evidenced by participation in regular Open House Nights to showcase student work and weekend workshops for families to participate in project based learning.
- 2) As reported to the sponsor by June 30th of each year, 85% of parents shall attend parent-teacher conferences at least once per academic year.
- 3) The school will report its average satisfaction rating on parent surveys to the sponsor by June 30th of each year, and by year three of the contract and each year thereafter, the school will achieve an average satisfaction rating of 8.5 or better out of 10.

Attendance and Graduation Goal:

- 1) Student daily attendance will average at least 93% for each school year as measured by the school's local report card.

Financial Goal:

- 1) Beginning in the third year of the Contract and for each year thereafter, the school's total revenue will be greater than or equal to total expenses.

Educational Program

The achievement of our mission will be supported by a well-constructed and unique daily schedule, which consists of a core morning program and the afternoon humanities program. The daily schedule will permit uninterrupted instruction in a 120-90-60-90 minute sequence (English language arts, mathematics, science and Paragon—the humanities/social studies program). Our school will have a 7 ½ hour extended day and 192 day calendar, providing significantly more time-on-task for students to master content and improve skills. At the heart of our school is the innovative Paragon curriculum, a highly engaging, interdisciplinary social studies program that allows students to learn about the history of great ideas and heroes in U.S. and world culture in a hands-on approach with integrated art and technology.

Unique features of Park Valley Community School include:

- Rigorous pre-college preparatory curriculum which has been tested in the United States and Internationally.
- Strong arts education through the Paragon® humanities and social studies curriculum which immerses students in the exploration of great ideas and great thinkers across the disciplines.
- Integrated STEM curriculum chronicling the history of technology, science and engineering connected to the Paragon eras.
- Preschool programming starting with three year olds
- Spanish instruction *beginning* in Kindergarten.
- Extended school day by one hour and extended school year with the option of a year-round calendar.
- Personalized Student Achievement Plans (PSAPs) for every student.
- A technology-rich environment with teachers fully trained to integrate technology as a seamless tool for learning into every discipline. Blended learning instruction through online assessments, course content, and materials.
- Twenty percent of the science block is dedicated to hands-on STEM instruction fostering ingenuity and resourcefulness in student design.
- A range of extra-curricular and enrichment activities based on student interest, such as sports teams and clubs. In addition, selected schools will partner with Project Lead the Way, a leading provider of excellent Science, Technology, Engineering and Math curriculum with supporting professional development and project-based learning.
- Before and after-school programming.
- Free afterschool tutoring.
- Hear what students and parents have to say about Paragon - [Paragon video](#)

Innovative Instruction

As referenced in our Mission Statement, Park Valley Community School strives to create generations of great problem solvers. To make this happen, students must be active participants in their own education. Students at STEM Academy will be involved in every part of their education starting with the development of a Personalized Student Achievement Plan which will be monitored at multiple points throughout the year.

To empower students we have adopted a constructivist model which views learners as the architects of their own knowledge. Park Valley Community School was designed around the theory that students learn best in an environment that employs a constructivist, student-centered and hands-on approach to learning. Our teachers support learning, creativity, and innovation by encouraging students to use active techniques (experiments, real-world problem solving) to create more knowledge and then to reflect on and talk about what they are doing and how their understanding is changing. Teachers will receive ongoing, extensive professional development to ensure they have the skills necessary to carry out this model. In all subject areas children will work collaboratively to determine the scope, materials, and strategy for their hands-on projects connecting literature, math, science to the humanities and

social sciences. Technology will be integrated into every subject through digital assessments, online curriculum, and integrated learning systems.

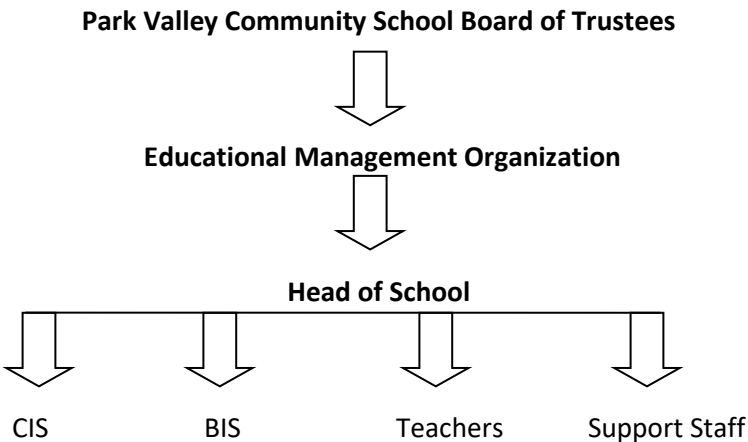
This model will then overflow into our afterschool and Saturday programs which focus on student-created projects with teacher guidance as well as family focused projects to encourage creativity. Park Valley Community School will provide a range of extra-curricular and enrichment activities based on student interest, such as sports teams and clubs. Parent involvement will go beyond typical home-school relationships that engage parents in the mission of our school, creation of hands-on projects, and donation of their time for project based learning.

Park Valley Community School’s model not only provides an extended year but also an extended day. Students will go to school for 192 days and the school day is extended by one hour to 7.5 hours. In addition, we will further extend the school day by offering after school tutoring to students who are not proficient in core subjects. During the small period of time between the end of one school year and the beginning of the next, we will offer summer school to students in need of additional instruction and enrichment camps for all students.

School Governance

The governing body of the school provides the vision and direction of the school and should the Board contract with an Education Management Organization (EMO) they will manage all functions for the school. The EMO will work with each committee of the governing Board to help them realize their visions in the most cost effective and time efficient manner possible. However, the vision and direction will come from the Board. Likewise, while the EMO will prepare monthly reports and draft annual budgets; these will all be submitted for Board review, revision if necessary, and approval. The Board is responsible for holding the EMO accountable for all services included in the management contract. The Board will maintain autonomy from the EMO and will retain independent legal counsel.

Organization Chart



The Head of School will supervise the Curriculum Implementation Specialist (CIS), Behavior Implementation Specialist (BIS), Teachers, Instructional Assistants, and Secretary, and other support services that may be provided through our own employees or through service contracts for such

services as social services, psychological services, Special Education resource services, custodial care, maintenance, and food service. The Head of School and Academy staff will have continual access to resources provided by the EMO on day-to-day instructional, curricular, and financial issues.

The EMO will provide comprehensive educational and administrative services, including (i) management oversight, professional development, training and coordination of all instructional and other personnel, including the Head of School and the rest of the leadership team and all teachers and support staff; (ii) the selection of instructional tools, equipment, supplies and other materials, including textbooks, computers, software and multi-media teaching tools; (iii) the development and implementation of after-school tutorial and recreational programs, as well as other extra-curricular activities and programs; (iv) the development, subject to approval of the academy's board, of the Academy's Code of Conduct, as well as its educational and curricular goals, methods of pupil assessment, admissions and student recruitment policies, school calendar and school-day schedules; (v) preparation and dissemination of academic progress reports and parent satisfaction surveys; (vi) operation and maintenance of the Academy's facilities; and (vii) administration of all business aspects of the academy, including payroll management, coordination of transportation and food service contracts, budgeting and financial reporting, public relations, maintenance of financial, student and personnel records.