



Charter school adds sixth-grade class

By fall of 2014, the charter school will expand to eighth grade

BY LISA K. ANDERSON

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Oregon Trail Primary Academy is adding a sixth-grade class.

The academy has been authorized by the Oregon Trail School District school board to add a middle school program beginning in fall 2012. Each succeeding year, the school will add a grade level until it reaches eighth grade.

This was the long-term plan when the charter school opened its doors in fall 2010, and the vision is to eventually continue through high school years.

"I'm excited for the continuity this will provide our students," said James Milliken, school director.

A new sixth-grade class will include 27 students, and have five open seats for fall 2012, assuming the 22 current fifth-grade students continue with the academy next year.

Marley Weber, a fifth-grade parent, is glad her son Luke has the opportunity to continue with Mandarin Chinese instruction and the international baccalaureate philosophy, even though he won't have the elective choices other middle schools offer.

The classroom will be housed in either a part of the current library or the arts and crafts room. Eventually, the middle school classes will be housed across the street in the former Cottrell middle school building.

When the middle school classes become a reality, the academy will apply to be a candidate for the Middle Years Program within the international baccalaureate program.

Open enrollment

K-6

Open enrollment for the 2012-13 school year at the academy began Jan. 3 and ends at 4 p.m. March 1. Enrollment packets for all grade levels are available at the academy office and on its website.

Once a student is enrolled, he or she is not required to re-enroll, but instead to submit a confirmation of continued enrollment.

At the close of the open enrollment period, the academy will review all packets. Enrolled students and siblings of enrolled students get highest preference in admission.

Then come children living within school district boundaries. Children outside of the district may be admitted under state law if space is available.

If applications for a class exceed the class' capacity of 27 students, the school will conduct a public random lottery March 16. Additional applicants will be added to a waiting list.

For more information about the enrollment process, visit the Oregon Trail Primary Academy website.