

Aurora Borealis Expansion Proposal

During the last year there has been increased interest in expanding Aurora Borealis Charter School to include grades 9-12. The Academic Policy Committee (APC) had the administrator put together a High School Committee to start working out the logistics of expanding. The administrator sent out a survey to all current ABCS families. Specific survey results will be included in another document.

Time Frame Options: (Specific details will be on another document)

2018-2019 School Year	Add 9 th & 10 th grade (20 students max per grade level)
2019-2020 School Year	Add 11 th grade
2020-2021 School Year	Add 12 th grade

Curriculum

In order to meet state standards and offer rigorous high school courses, the curriculum committee suggests using the Peak to Peak Charter School (Colorado) curriculum as a framework for Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies. Peak to Peak is a K-12 charter school with some of the highest test scores in the nation. Their elementary philosophy and curriculum is close to Aurora's (they use Core Knowledge), and Peak to Peak is a well-established school. A list of their classes can be found at

<http://catalog.peaktopeak.org>

Science:

9 th Grade	Biology	11 th Grade	Chemistry
10 th Grade	Physical Science	12 th Grade	Physics (Saxon –not in PeaktoPeak's curriculum)

Language Arts:

9 th Grade	World Literature	11 th Grade	English Language and Composition
10 th Grade	Why Writing Matters	12 th Grade	Senior Literature

Social Studies:

9 th Grade	Human Geography/Government	11 th Grade	World History
10 th Grade	US History	12 th Grade	Economics/AK Studies

Math: The curriculum committee recommends continuing with our current Saxon math spiraling curriculum. The courses would progress in the following order:

Algebra → Algebra 2 → Geometry → Math Analysis → Calculus

Course Scheduling and Elective Course Offerings

Graduation requirements of KPBSD, require students take 4.5 elective credits. They are also required to take 3.0 credits of practical or creative arts with a minimum of 0.5 practical arts and 0.5 creative arts credit.

With this in mind, the curriculum committee recommends that required core courses take place in periods 1-4 before lunch time. This would allow for the entire afternoon to be used for elective courses.

- Students will be required to take at least two years of foreign language as 2 of their general elective credits.
- Students will be allowed to pursue, online electives, that are not offered by our school.
- While health is not an elective class, it should be noted that all students in the KPBSD are required to take at least .5 credit health class.

Some electives can be offered at the school under the direct instruction of a teacher. These might include:

Choir, Band, Piano, Guitar, PE, Pottery, Painting, Robotics, Technology, Photography, Yearbook

Extra-Curricular Activities

During the first year or two of implementation, ABCS would plan on partnering with KCHS for all extra-curricular activities. Due to ASAA regulations all students would need to play at KCHS for all sports. The only extra-curricular activities ABCS would look to implement in the future would be the activities currently being offered at the 7th-8th grade level, like cross-country, basketball, robotics, and Future Problem Solving. As the school grew in size, those options may increase.

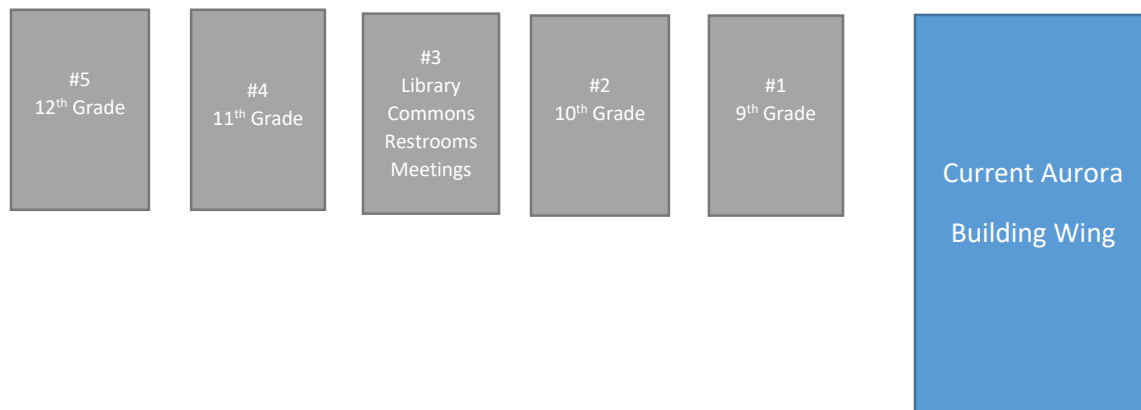
Activities will depend on the number of students who attend ABCS for 9th-12th grade and the facility options that are utilized.

Facility Options

One of the biggest obstacles facing the formation of a high school is space. Currently, we use every room in the wing we have access to use. There are some options available that include the following:

Utilizing Portables:

- a. Use the two portables that are currently in place for 9th and 10th grade students during the 2018-2019 school year.
- b. Add at-least two more portables during the 2019-2021 school years. At that point the entire high school would be in portables. An extra portable in the middle could be utilized as a “commons” area, for a total of 5 portables.
- c. At some point plumbing would need to be installed in at least one of the portables.



New Facility:

- a. ABCS could look for a facility in the area (Kenai or Soldotna) that could be utilized as a K-12 school. The facility would need to house at-least 300 students.

Utilize Entire Current Facility:

- a. The current wing that ABCS uses now is also used by two other user groups. Those groups use two full-sized classrooms and two office spaces. Those rooms would give ABCS enough space to house 9th & 10th in portables and 11th & 12th in the current wing used by ABCS.
- b. The two office spaces would create an office for the principal and a nursing office.

Utilize a Home School Strategy:

- a. Have 9th & 10th grade students housed at ABCS all day. 11th & 12th grade students would meet with a counselor once or twice a week to set up and work with them on their on-line classes offered by ABCS, KPBSD, Connections, or college classes from local campuses.

Maintaining Climate and Culture

The curriculum committee advises offering incentives to keep students at Aurora Borealis throughout their entire high school day and their entire high school career. One idea would be to offer a senior trip, such as the “Close Up” trip, every year to those students who attend Aurora full time for both their junior and senior years. Students could begin fundraising for this opportunity during their freshman year and continue throughout their time in high school. Offering a steady diet of field trips would help to build comradery amongst students.

Some concern has been voiced about bringing in high school students who did not attend Aurora in grade school and junior high. This is a legitimate concern; however, the curriculum committee believes educating the public on the rigors of Aurora’s new high school would help in this area. Moreover, it is the opinion of the 6-8 grade teachers that the infusion of new students into the middle school has been a very positive experience. The enthusiasm of the new students has proven contagious.

Charter Updates Needed

ABCS would need to update several sections of its current Charter with KPBSD. Those updates have already been started and would be provided to the KPBSD during the January Board meeting.

Section 2v. Provide a description of the school schedule and calendar. *4 AAC 33.110(a)(9)*

Section 3i. Provide a description of the educational program to be offered at the charter school including specific teaching methods that benefit an age group, grade level or specific type of student and examples of curriculum utilized. *AS 14.03.255(c)(1), AS 14.03.265(a)(1-3), 4 AAC 33.110(a)(5)*

Section 3ii. Provide evidence of a written instructional program that addresses state content standards under 4 AAC 04 and aligns with the content on the statewide assessment system under 4 AAC 06.710-4 AAC 06.790 marked as Appendix F. *4 AAC 33.110(a)(6)*

Section 3v. Provide a description of the mechanisms for student assessment utilized in addition to those required by state law. *4 AAC 33.110(a)(5)*

Section 5i. (facility changes as necessary)

Section 6i. Provide the written admission policies and procedures utilized by the charter. Please include evidence that the school is ensuring an equal and bias-free access to all eligible students. Mark as Appendix G. *AS 14.03.255(c)(3), 4 AAC 33.110(a)(11)*