

Application for New Charter School in SD U-46

Milena Perryman <milena@andromedablue.org>

Wed 10/27/2021 1:30 PM

To: susankerr@u-46.org <susankerr@u-46.org>

Greetings and Salutations
Esteemed Board Members!

My name is Milena Perryman, and I am the founder of a 501(c)3 organization called Andromeda Blue Academy (formerly Andromeda Blue Foundation). I founded the organization last year in memory of my beloved brother, Alec. Alec was a physicist who gave selflessly of his time, energy, and vast knowledge base before being unceremoniously snatched from us without warning. He was an instrumental part of the formation of another company I founded; together we co-designed and engineered what was to become a self-sustaining greenhouse in LEO orbit that would autonomously harvest adipic acid from sugar beets to use in the future production of bioplastics in space.

His loss was one of the biggest blows I've taken to date and while his loss can never be fully recovered from, I can take that pain and turn it into something beautiful, something valuable, something tangible. What we lost with his passing - I plan to put back out to the universe with Andromeda Blue Academy. Building on our mutual love of all things STEM, and knowing that Americans are sadly lacking in STEM literacy, our institution plans to instruct grades K-8 with a heavy STEM focus in addition to the required standards as set forth by IL State law.

We have chosen a curriculum that combines common core standards with STEM, thanks in part to Project Lead The Way, a revolutionary program with rock solid educational offerings that can be scaled up or down based on need. But where our program truly differs from the rest, is in the fact that we are a primarily digital/online school. All courses will be instructed by licensed teachers, presented digitally in a combination of live streamed lessons, prerecorded lessons, interactive games, and on-site labs carried out at our partner sites throughout the Chicagoland area. All teachers and school administration will be available to answer parent or student questions or concerns during normal business hours in order to adequately support our distance learners.

If there is one thing that the Covid-19 pandemic has shown us, it's that adaptability is key to success. And that access to high quality, digital educational material is woefully inadequate given the technology available in the present day. Schools were forced to change directions quickly and assimilate to a rapidly changing world for which we personally had no precedent. By launching as a digital platform, we can avoid some of the pitfalls and expenses that traditional schools were unable to avoid. This is a fact which I feel poises us not only for future growth, but also affirms to the community that we are up for any challenge; and that we understand the importance of meeting their needs not only educationally, but in other ways as well. In short, technology is not currently being leveraged to its full capabilities or advantages in scholastic settings; yet. We aim to change that, and by proxy offer a choice that would otherwise be unavailable to the students in the district.

Please kindly access my application and documents for recognition as a Charter School within the district via the Google Drive link below:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1uZie72Sfbl_2PITRbuQuw-LkMnQF3vSF?usp=sharing

If there is anything missing or incomplete, please accept my apologies as this is uncharted territory for me. I am happy to provide the board with any additional information or answer any questions it may

have. I can be reached either via email here, or via my mobile at 773-677-8580. I sincerely thank you for your time and consideration, and look forward to the possibility of working alongside the outstanding team already in place within the district!

Best Regards,

Milena Perryman
Founder
Andromeda Blue Academy