

### **Abstract of Proposed Charter School:**

South Valley Preparatory School proposes to serve students in grades 6, 7 and 8 in the South Valley of Albuquerque, New Mexico. The mission of South Valley Preparatory School is to provide a small, safe learning community so that students in the South Valley can engage in a rigorous and relevant academic curriculum. We believe it is here, within a unique family framework; where individual student's strengths can be cultivated while expanding academic horizons and fostering active citizenship. South Valley Prep will serve the unique and predominant non-immigrant and immigrant Hispanics population that permeates the entire South Valley. Our intention is to serve students in the South Valley.

South Valley Prep is built upon the principle of small learning communities. We believe that a small learning community is foundational in addressing the complex needs of the unique students in the South Valley. A small learning community where students remain with the same core team of teachers for all three grades would support the implementation of best practices and strategies that have been proven successful in the South Valley in the middle school academy at Kit Carson. Just recently, the local school district closed the three middle school academies in the South Valley. This has left a noticeable void in school choice for families in the South Valley. In fact, there is now only one choice for parents seeking an alternative setting for their children, and, that charter school is facing corrective action. The existence of South Valley Preparatory School would increase the educational opportunities available to this growing section of the city. Furthermore, a small learning community will allow us to provide our students with the following:

- A safe environment where students are able to engage in academic study with minimal distraction from common outside challenges
- Instruction by the same family of teachers for each core subject. Each subject taught by the same teacher for three years
- A rigorous curriculum that is aligned to the New Mexico state standards
- Explicit reading instruction using a researched-based framework in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades.
- Multiple assessment opportunities that allows both students and their teachers time to reflect on learning and teaching
- An integrated curriculum that lends itself to addressing language development issues of both the bilingual and latent bilingual student across the curriculum
- Authentic relationships between staff and students that are developed and maintained through looping, core teacher teaming and family advisory groups.
- An increased sense of belonging to their community through participation in service learning

South Valley Prep intends to address the community's need for a quality middle school throughout the South Valley in two different ways. The first is to use the original core team of teachers, the founders, to mentor all other core teams that phase in. Secondly, we intentionally preserve the small learning environment by eventually moving one of core team from the first five years farther south into the South Valley that will serve students that would traditionally feed into Harrison and Polk Middle Schools. South Valley Prep will provide a choice for parents whose children traditionally feed into the South Valley's large, failing public middle schools. Our goal is to motivate students to learn and be actively engaged in their school and in the larger community regardless of personal circumstance. This foundation supports consistent academic support in core academic areas and personal growth for students that traditionally are the most at-risk for failing.