

**Kidinnu Academy  
Charter School Petition Summary**

**Proposed School Start Up Date is August 21, 2019**

**Why Kidinnu Academy Charter School?**

A Charter School will provide an opportunity for innovation. The goals of the Kidinnu Academy planning team are:

- Provide a learning environment that celebrates the Chaldean culture, history, and heritage languages.
- Raise the achievement bar for Chaldean and other community students through science, technology, engineering, arts, and math.

**Who is Kidinnu?**

Kidinnu was a Chaldean astronomer and mathematician. Kidinnu lived in the late 4th or early 3rd century BCE. He was an astronomer and mathematician who is believed to be responsible for a Babylonian theory that described the speed of the Moon's and Sun's motions and lunar phases and eclipses. Kidinnu applied mathematical rules to the variations in the speed of the Sun and the Moon and worked out predictions of lunar phenomena. Kidinnu is also attributed with discoveries relating to the motion of Mercury and the relationship between two different lunar periods.

**Vision**

Our vision is to empower students to acquire, demonstrate, articulate and value knowledge and skills that will support them, as life-long learners, to participate in and contribute to the global world and practice the core values of the school: respect, tolerance and inclusion, and excellence.

**Mission**

Kidinnu Academy's mission is to improve student learning through a world-class multi-lingual education using an inquiry and investigative school model to explore the fundamental aspects of each discipline while promoting excellence through understanding ancient wisdom and the technological advancements of the present age.

### **Charter Goals**

Kidinnu will fulfill its mission by creating a dynamic teaching-learning environment through the application of innovative teaching methods to awaken student interest and engagement, promoting real-world learning through continuous improvement and accountability resulting in high academic achievement and community mutual benefit.

- Develop a deep understanding, mastery and application of important concepts to promote life-long learning and high levels of academic achievement through an inquiry-based approach.
- Promote a Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) integrated curriculum.
- Incorporate ancient history and the contributions of Chaldean legacy to the development of Western Civilization.
- Align Kidinnu's thematic, inquiry-based units of instruction to develop and use the best instructional practices that meet the varied needs of all students.
- Develop language competency in at least three languages (English, Chaldean, and computer literacy).
- Provide acquisition of measurable skills that are aligned to Kidinnu's Expected Student-wide Learning Results (ESLRs), the CA Common Core State Standards (CCSS), Core Knowledge Sequence (CKS), and interdisciplinary Kidinnu themes.
- Implement Kidinnu's thematic, inquiry-based units of instruction, which focus on the total growth of the developing child, touching hearts and minds; encompassing social, physical, emotional, and cultural needs with the involvement of community partnerships.
- Involve parent and community participation in the academic and social development of students through family-school programs and events.
- Provide opportunities for student and family involvement in responsible actions and social service in their local and world community.

### **What It Means To Be An Educated Person In The 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

Kidinnu Academy believes a truly educated person in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century must possess the following skills and attributes:

1. High Academic Proficiency
2. Communication Skills
3. Research Skills
4. Technological Proficiency
5. Interpersonal and Intrapersonal Skills
6. Curiosity
7. Innovation
8. Tolerance

## *A World-Class Multi-Lingual Education That Touches Both Hearts Minds*

Kidinnu believes that fostering the development of these 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills and qualities in an educational environment by upholding standards of academic excellence, democratic processes and developmentally appropriate learning experiences, will encourage the creative and critical thinking skills that will enable our students to find workable solutions to today's challenges.

### **“Kids Can Do” Interdisciplinary Themes of Inquiry**

Kidinnu's thematic, inquiry-based units of instruction, which focus on the total growth of the developing child, touching hearts and minds; encompassing social, physical, emotional, and cultural needs with the involvement of community partnerships. The Charter School will be a school that models inclusiveness and recognition of a common humanity through interdisciplinary school-wide themes. The Kidinnu curriculum will be organized around seven themes of inquiry. Kidinnu has created the “Kids Can Do” themes in alignment with Kidinnu's mission and vision. The themes will have a global, “big picture” significance for all students in all cultures, and offer students the opportunity to explore the commonalities of human experience. The themes will be supported by knowledge, concepts and skills from the traditional subject areas, but will transcend the confines of these subjects, thereby contributing to an Interdisciplinary model of teaching and learning.

The “**Kids Can Do**” interdisciplinary inquiry is organized around seven themes of inquiry:

1. Knowing Our Place in Space and Time
2. Relating to Our Self and Others
3. Exploring How Things Work
4. Caring for Our Surroundings
5. Making Connections
6. Expressing Ourselves Creatively
7. Discovering Innovative Solutions

The “Kids Can Do” themes will focus on the development of the whole child. It will be a trans-disciplinary curriculum, which draws individual disciplines together into a coherent whole, while preserving the essence of each subject, and striving to develop a global perspective.

Students will develop a deep understanding of basic and important concepts; they will conduct research into knowledge with local and global significance; they will acquire and practice a range of essential skills; they will be encouraged to develop positive attitudes toward learning, the environment and other people; and, will have the opportunity for involvement in responsible action and social service, and in developing innovative solutions.

## *A World-Class Multi-Lingual Education That Touches Both Hearts Minds*

With this model in mind, Kidinnu seeks to offer this opportunity to all El Cajon families. A marketing approach to reach diverse families will be employed, and a lottery will be used, if the interest, exceeds space. This approach will ensure that the opportunity is available to all who may be interested.

### **Enrollment - Racial and Ethnic Diversity Reflective of the District**

Once authorized, Kidinnu Academy Charter School will seek to recruit a diverse student body that reflects the racial, ethnic, and economic diversity of the general population residing within the District. Kidinnu Academy will be nondiscriminatory, nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices, and all other operations.

Kidinnu Academy's student population will come from families who are looking for an alternative education, one that offers inquiry-based instruction, science-technology "STEAM" infused curriculum with blended learning and computer literacy, a legacy focus, fine arts integration, classical literature, character development, Aramaic language, and a small class size. The number of students per class will be small enough to enable more teacher-student interaction and an optimum size for increased student participation with 22-25 students per classrooms.

Kidinnu Academy will serve students in transitional kindergarten through fifth grade. The school will serve up to 198 students in its first year at St. Peter's Chaldean Catholic Church's educational building.

Year 1 (2019-20), Kidinnu will serve students in transitional kindergarten through third grade.

Year 2 Kidinnu will serve students through fourth grade.

Year 3 and beyond, Kidinnu will serve students through fifth grade.

The Kidinnu Academy will establish an open enrollment period of at least 30 consecutive days prior to the commencement of the school year. Should Kidinnu Academy receive a number of applications from potential students exceeding the number of spaces available within the school, the school will conduct a random public lottery complying with all State laws, which will be communicated to all interested parties at least 30 days prior to holding the lottery. Notice of the open enrollment period, the admissions process, and the place of any lottery, location, and time, will be included in public announcements. This information will be included in the recruitment materials, advertisements, and forums.