



Indiana State Board of Education
Request for Freeway School Accreditation
Board Date: July 3, 2013

<u>School:</u>	Ambassador Christian Academy
<u>Education Director:</u>	Dr. Vercena Stewart
<u>Address:</u>	900 W Ridge Road Gary, Indiana
<u>Grade Span:</u>	K-12
<u>Public/Private:</u>	Private
<u>Current Enrollment:</u>	201
<u>Targeted Population:</u>	Families seeking a faith-based non-public school environment
<u>Identity:</u>	Ambassador Christian Academy's vision is to be a pre-K through secondary spirit-filled Christian educational institution. We will equip our students to be emissaries of Christ to a lost and dying world. We use the most advanced curriculum, facilities, and equipment to prepare them. We will develop the total person; the spirit, soul, and body.
<u>Curriculum:</u>	Ambassador Academy's curriculum is based on the Indiana Standards, with biblical content interspersed throughout.
<u>Testing History:</u>	The school has a strong history of testing. There was a noticeable drop in percentage rates during the 2011-2012 year. The school attributes this to the large influx of students on Choice Scholarships that enrolled for that year. As the students' exposure to the teaching and environment at Ambassador, scores are expected to return to higher levels.
<u>Staffing:</u>	Ambassador Academy employs a mix of licensed and non-licensed staff. This is typical of Freeway and other accredited private schools.
<u>Waiver Requests:</u>	1.) statutes regarding the teaching of safety, hygiene, tobacco, prescription drugs and controlled substances. This curriculum is taught in an alternative way through their religious portion of the curriculum. 2.) Statutes regarding textbooks. While they normally use textbooks from the state list, they



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Glenda Ritz, NBCT
Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction

request flexibility when necessary. 3.) Curricular requiring Family and Consumer Science and Industrial Technology.

Issues: None

Recommendations: Full Five-Year Freeway Accreditation

PETITION FOR FREEWAY SCHOOL STATUS
for
Ambassador Christian Academy
2013

1. **The school entity to be declared a Freeway School**

Ambassador Christian Academy is a ministry of Embassies of Christ Kingdom Ministries. Ambassador Christian Academy consists of four buildings located at 801 W. Ridge Road (Middle School), 1001 W. Ridge Road (fourth and fifth grades), and 900 W. Ridge Road (Kindergarten-third grades), the administration building. The school began in 1997 with 3 students and 2 teachers. Ambassador Christian Academy has grown steadily since its inception; for the 2007-2008 school year, there were 300 students enrolled in Day Care-10th grade, with nearly 40 staff members. We are requesting to be declared a Freeway School for grades K-9th. There are currently 201 students in this block. However, the future vision of Ambassador Christian Academy is to have this declaration applied to 10th-12th grade.

Ambassador Christian Academy has been a member of the Association of Christian Schools International since August 2000. Faculty and staff participate in annual professional development workshops to stay abreast of current trends in education.

The Pastors of Embassies of Christ Kingdom Ministries are the ultimate authority for Ambassador Christian Academy and are responsible for selecting the administrator of the school. The Pastors, with the assistance of the school administrator, establish policy and hire staff. The Pastors and administrators meet once a week to discuss enrollment, upcoming events, finances, curriculum, staffing issues, and state inspector visits. Ambassador Christian Academy has an advisory board consisting of experienced educators offering continuous counsel.

Ambassador Christian Academy's vision is to be a pre-K through secondary and ultimately a post-secondary spirit-filled Christian educational institution. We will equip our students to be emissaries of Christ to a lost and dying world. We will use the most advanced curriculum, facilities, and equipment to prepare them. We will develop the total person; the spirit, soul, and body (I Thess. 5:23).

Ambassador Christian Academy is committed to providing a quality Christian education. Ephesians 6:4 says to educate and warn our children in the Lord. We the staff, parents, and administrators are dedicated to developing a spiritually mature generation of students who master academics for the purpose of living a productive life and reaching the world for Christ.

Our Statement of Purpose

Ambassador Christian Academy is an integral part of the ministry at Embassies of Christ Kingdom Ministries. The school serves to work in cooperation with the church and the home as a vital link in educating children in Christian principles.

Ambassador Christian Academy will provide children with an education that will equip them with the necessary tools to fulfill their Godly Purpose on Earth.

Ambassador Christian Academy will provide an education that will enhance a child's spiritual, intellectual, physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

Ambassador Christian Academy will assist parents in fulfilling their God given responsibility to educate their children, spiritually and academically. Parents are the first teachers.

2. Demographic data pertinent to this request

Ambassador Christian Academy was established in 1997 with the first enrollment of three students in day care. Originally, there were two full-time teachers, one head teacher, and one assistant. Pre-kindergarten was added the next year. Thereafter, a grade was added every year until 2005-2006 when the 9th grade was added. Ambassador Christian Academy did not offer the 10th grade until the 2007-2008. Currently Ambassador Christian Academy currently has 318 students enrolled in grades Day Care-8th grade.

All staff members are required to be Christians and are expected to be examples of the Christian faith for the students of Ambassador Christian Academy. Some of our teachers are licensed with the State of Indiana. Our faculty's education degrees were earned from both public and Christian colleges and universities. The teaching faculty ranges from twenty-five years of experience to teachers with one year of experience. *(For more information on current teaching staff, please refer to Appendix B.)*

Students at Ambassador Christian Academy mostly reside in Gary, Indiana. However, Ambassador Christian Academy continues to draw students from the cities of Merrillville, Hobart, Portage, East Chicago, and Hammond and from the state of Illinois. The students and their families live in urban and suburban areas. By far, most of our families have urban dwellings. Many of our families are one or two parent families with one or both parents working. There is a wide range of jobs and professions within our parent group, somewhat equally divided between blue collar and white collar.

Ambassador Christian Academy's racial population is currently ninety-eight percent (98%) African American, with a two percent (2%) Hispanic population. The distinguishing difference in Ambassador's enrollment, compared to the general population, is in regard to church affiliation. Twenty-five percent (25%) of Ambassador Christian Academy students attend Embassies of Christ Church and over fifty percent (50%) of our students attend Christian churches in the surrounding communities. Because our vision is to aid Christian families by presenting a Biblical worldview for their students, many of our parents have a basic Christian belief structure.

Although Ambassador Christian Academy is not equipped to educate students with severe learning or physical disabilities, the school has a number of students who qualify for Title I assistance. In addition students with special needs are identified and referred to the local public school for assessment/IEP.

Ambassador Christian Academy has a scholarship program in place to assist families experiencing financial hardship. The funding for this program comes from Embassies of Christ Church, Educational Choice Trust (SGO) and local organizations and companies.

3. Statutes and rules to be suspended as a result of this contract

- A. Suspension of IC 20-30-5-8, IC 20-30-5-9 and IC 20-30-5-11 regarding safety education, hygiene, tobacco, prescription drugs, and controlled substances.

These subjects are included in Ambassador Christian Academy's instruction from a Biblical worldview. Respect and care of the human body begins with a perspective that our bodies are God's temple, and all Christians have the responsibility to honor God through the care and safety of their physical beings. It is also a clear Biblical mandate that Christians should exercise self-control and not be controlled by drugs or alcoholic beverages. Christian decision-making processes hold first priority in God's Word. This results in the clear message of a Biblical-based life style with regard to non-abuse hygiene and non-abuse of drugs, etc.

Ambassador Christian Academy's teachers and staff are expected to teach through example in their personal choices in addition to consciously and actively teaching these values as a part of the curriculum. The teachers, as the Living Curriculum, from Daycare through eighth grade, actively teach respect for God's temple, self-control, kindness and compassion for others, abstinence from any harmful or immoral activities, and stewardship of all God's world.

Even though Ambassador Christian Academy may teach much of the State mandated curriculum in these areas and possibly at the same grade levels,

we petition suspension of the rules to teach much more in keeping with the mission and purposes of our school.

- B. Suspension of IC 20-20-5-2, IC 20-26-12-24, IC 20-26-12-28, and 511 IAC 6.1-5-5 regarding textbooks.

Our school seeks a suspension of the requirement for adopting from the state list and a suspension of the requirement for filing waivers for adoption of texts other than those on the state list. Due to the core nature of our school, parents, teachers and School Directors often find Christian texts more appropriate for the educational processes and purposes of our school.

Textbooks are chosen at Ambassador Christian Academy based upon that textbook's ability to honor Christ and coordinate with a Christian worldview. Ambassador Christian Academy lists Biblical Standards as its first priority, followed by the Indiana Academic Standards. A number of secular and non-Christian texts are currently in use because the academic content has been judged as superior, and the school has found other texts or materials to integrate Biblical truth in that particular subject/grade level.

Ambassador Christian Academy currently uses *Abeka* textbooks along with other major publishing companies such as Positive Action for Christ, McGraw Hill Everyday Math, Harcourt Brace, Pearson, Houghton-Mifflin, and Holt/ McDougal. In addition we use Delta-Foss. Approximately 50% of our textbooks are Christian-based and the other 50% secular.

Throughout the history of our school, the textbook selection process and its results have served the school well, providing excellent textbooks for our school. Therefore, Ambassador Christian Academy is requesting the suspension of the five rules listed concerning textbooks.

- C. Ambassador Christian Academy would like to waive the following statues and rules concerning curriculum: 511-IAC 6.1 1-5-4 and 511-IAC 6.1 1-5-3.5. Currently, Ambassador Christian Academy offers middle school students Spanish, art, physical education, and computer classes. Ambassador Christian Academy would like to waive the home economics and industrial arts component in the middle and high school curriculum.

4. The minimum education benefits expected to be attained as a result of this contract

- A. In 2008 Ambassador Christian Academy's attendance was 85% and we agreed to attain an average attendance rate that would increase not less than two percent (2%) each school year and one percent (1%) each school year until the average rate is ninety percent (90%). According to 2012-13 IDOE Compass Attendance report the attendance was as follows: 2009-10

attendance was 96.8%; 2010-11 attendance was 96.6% and 2011-12 attendance was 97.2%. Attendance has increased by 12.2%. Ambassador Christian Academy is committed to Indiana's Minimum 180 Instructional Days for students.

- B. Even though Ambassador Christian Academy (ACA) agreed to attain a successful completion of the ISTEP+ assessment program that increases not less than two percent (2%) each school year until the average rate is eighty-five percent (85%); and one percent (1%) each school year until the average rate is ninety percent (90%), there were some very interesting reasons why this became a challenge for ACA. Specifically, Ambassador Christian Academy agrees to the above time schedule and percentages for the ISTEP+ average percentage of students passing in all tested grades for English/language arts and mathematics. Several things were discovered:

ISTEP RESULTS FROM 2008-2012

Subject	2008-09		2009-10		*2010-11		2011-12	
	Pass	DNP	Pass	DNP	Pass	DNP	Pass	DNP
English Only 3 rd -8 th	71.4% 54 students	28.9% 22 students	77.6% 59 students	22.4% 17 students	88% 44 students	12% 6 students	82% 100 students	18% 22 students
Math Only 3 rd -8 th	50% 38 students	50% 38 students	50% 38 students	50% 38 students	84% 42 students	16% 8 students (3 rd & 4 th Grades only)	61.5% 75 students	38.5% 47 students
Eng/Math Both 3 rd -8 th	42.1% 32 students	57.9% 44 students	46.1% 35 students	53.9% 41 students	78% 39 students	22% 11 students	56.6% 69 students	43.4% 53 students
Science 4 th & 6 th	38.7% 12 students	61.9% 19 students	46.1% 12 students	53.9% 14 students	55.6% 10 students	44.4% 8 students	52.8% 19 students	47.2% 17 students
Social Studies 5 th & 7 th	42.1% 8 students	57.9% 11 students	34.5% 10 students	65.5% 19 students	41.7% 5 students	58.3% 7 students	44.4% 16 students	55.6% 20 students

*2010-11 data only reports 3rd & 4th grades data. It suppresses 5th-8th grades due to class sizes having less than 10 students per class which was 24 students data suppressed. If 5th-8th grades data had been included, it would have depicted a more accurate picture of ACA which would have shown a steady increase over a three year period instead of a decline in passing English only and passing both English/Math from year to year. Therefore we are requesting that The 2010-11 data (3rd & 4th grades only data) not be reviewed by IDOE as an indicator to show increase in student proficiency for the entire school. In addition in 2011-12 ACA had 41% more students (72students) due to Ambassador Christian Academy accepting students from the IDOE Choice Voucher Program. The majority of students accepted were one to two grade levels below the grade level they were placed. This has resulted in a number of steps taken by ACA administrator and staff to increase ISTEP proficiency We encourage you to review steps taken over the past five years to address our growing concerns:

1. *Students not passing Math/English receive one on one remediation*

with teacher of record during and before/afterschool.

2. *Student not passing Math/English must attend six week Saturday school for three hours.*
3. *Students not passing Math/English are assigned to Title I Intervention Specialist working with students in small groups*
4. *Teacher of record met with parent/student and team leader to develop a High Risk Plan and implement strategies to monitor the progress of students failing Math/English.*
5. *Students not proficient /passing Math and/or English are required to attend four week summer school to increase proficiency in Math/English.*

- C. As Ambassador Christian Academy adds 9th grade and beyond we agree to attain a graduation rate for ninth grade that increases not less than two percent (2%) each school year until the average rate is eighty-five percent (85%); and one percent (1%) each school year until the average rate is ninety percent (90%).

5. Privileges to be granted as a result of this contract

- A. Ambassador Christian Academy will have the opportunity to administer the ISTEP+ Test to students free of charge, allowing additional funding to go toward other educational activities at the school.
- B. Ambassador Christian Academy students' academic credits will be easily transferred from one school to another.
- C. Ambassador Christian Academy students will qualify for college scholarships such as the 21st Century Scholars Program.

6. The benchmark by which the Freeway School will determine that the educational benefits are being attained

- A. Our curriculum has the Indiana Academic Standards as its academic base, ensuring that what is being taught is meeting those standards.
- C. Ambassador Christian Academy will continue to administer the ISTEP+ to our students on a yearly basis, giving clear indication of the academic progress of our students.
- D. Ambassador Christian Academy will, on a yearly basis, file reports with the State Department of Education for attendance rates and health and safety reports.

7. Strategies for the curriculum to address issues related to: character education; hygiene, alcohol and drugs; diseases transmitted sexually; honesty; respect; and abstinence and restraint

A. The Bible curriculum of Ambassador Christian Academy addresses all of these issues. The philosophy, mission and purpose statements of Ambassador Christian Academy clearly point to the Bible as being the highest authority over any other textbook or resource of our school. Christian/godly character is a major theme of the Bible, which is studied daily at every grade level. Within Biblical coursework, students learn of the fruit of the spirit-filled life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. This is only one list of the characteristics of a mature Christian lifestyle and there are many other passages extolling the value of growing in these qualities. Truth and honesty are held in high regard in many biblical accounts and deceitfulness is condemned. Respect is another common biblical theme, especially respect for parents, elders, teachers and civil and political leaders. Sexual abstinence is a vital part of the Christian concept of every relationship, except marriage between a man and a woman. The Bible clearly forbids drunkenness, which is taught in the context of alcohol and drugs. Since the body is described as the temple of God and God also created mankind in His own image, Ambassador Christian Academy teaches a high regard for personal, hygiene and a healthy lifestyle. Although the primary purpose of the Bible is to reveal who God is, Ambassador Christian Academy regards the secondary theme of character education as the very best authority on this subject.

B. Health, science, and physical education classes cover sexually transmitted diseases and Ambassador Christian Academy will supplement its curriculum with CPR+ at the 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th grade levels and beyond. As mentioned previously, Ambassador Christian Academy expects teachers to live godly lifestyles as examples for their students. As the Living Curriculum, their examples are the most excellent statements of the high ideals held not only in word but also in actions. Altogether, Ambassador Christian Academy actively, regularly and effectively incorporates the teaching of character education, hygiene, alcohol and drugs, sexually transmitted diseases, honesty, respect, abstinence and restraint.

8. Our plan for securing and maintaining a safe and disciplined learning environment for students and teachers

A. Parents, faculty, staff, administration, and church leadership hold high expectations and standards of discipline for the entire learning environment of our school. Parent/Student and Faculty handbooks make clear the expected

behaviors of students. Interviews with parents include mention of the behavioral expectations of the school. When a question arises as to the unacceptable behavior of a student, that student will be placed on behavioral probation and not allowed to continue enrollment if the behavior does not improve to acceptable standards. Even though it is rarely used, Ambassador Christian Academy reserves the right to spank a child as a last resort or under extreme circumstances of misbehavior. Keeping that option open has been a deterrent to misbehavior. Parents sign an agreement upon enrolling their child.

- B. Academic discipline is taught through homework and reasonable, yet higher expectations of performance in the classroom. Students are also expected to show respect to all teachers and adults on staff. Teachers are required to turn in lesson plans and meet expectations of performance and content coverage.
- C. Ambassador Christian Academy was successfully inspected by the Indiana Department of Health on June 3, 2013. We are currently addressing all of the improvements listed on the report.

9. Quantitative measures that will be used to determine that the terms of this contract are being carried out

Upon obtaining Freeway Status Ambassador Academy has administered ISTEP+ tests from 2008-2013. The results of those tests are a partial quantitative measure of the academic excellence of the school. Ambassador Christian Academy files attendance rates reports, health reports, emergency preparedness and tornado drill reports in a timely manner.

10. Core 40 Requirements/Academic Honors Diploma

Pastors/Superintendents and administrator made the decision to continue the 9th grade for the 2008-2009 school year-serving only one 9th grade. In 2009-10 a decision was made to discontinue ninth grade due to low enrollment. From that time until 2012-13 school year only Daycare -8th grade students were enrolled. A decision has been made for the 2013-14 school year to add 9th grade and to add 10th -12 grade each year after that. Ambassador Christian Academy expects to have our first graduating class in 2017. We are prepared to offer the necessary courses to meet the Core 40 and Core 40 Academic Honors for all projected students to complete. We currently have hired faculty who are qualified to teach the core areas (English, Math, Science, and Social Studies). If a student enters Ambassador Christian Academy, and would like to enroll in AP classes, Ambassador Christian Academy will partner with Universities, Colleges and/or offer on-line courses. If at any time additional highly qualified teachers are

needed for students requesting AP classes, Ambassador Christian Academy will hire the necessary staff. In addition Ambassador Christian Academy will allow students to earn an Indiana Academic Honors Diploma. All of our high school classes are in session for 45 minutes blocks and are subject to revision as needed.

11. *Ambassador Christian Academy has the ability to produce and submit all electronic state student data reports in a timely manner.*

12. Professional Staff Development

Ambassador Christian Academy provides two days in the fall for Professional Development through one of the following: ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International) as well as INPEA (Indiana Non-Public Education Association). In addition monthly professional development courses are offered in school as well as opportunities through the Gary Community School Corporation Title I and Title II Funds.

Appendix A
Ambassador Christian Academy
GOVERNING BOARD POLICY
EXPANDED CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

Ambassador Christian Academy Superintendents and Board of Directors provide oversight for the operations of Ambassador Christian Academy. The school has recently attained 501C3 status and remains a ministry under Embassies of Christ Church.

Ambassador Christian Academy has adopted a policy concerning criminal history information for individuals who:

- (1) apply for:
 - (A) employment with the school; or
 - (B) employment with an entity with which the school contracts for services;
- (2) seek to enter into a contract to provide services to the School; or
- (3) if the individuals are to have direct contact, ongoing contact with the children within the scope of the individual's employment

Ambassador Christian Academy requires new employees/volunteers to provide a Current Expanded Criminal Background check. Each individual hired whether noncertified or certified employment is requested to provide an expanded criminal history paid by them within three months of employment.

The failure to answer questions honestly is grounds for termination of the employee's employment. The applicant is responsible for all costs associated with obtaining the expanded criminal history check. An applicant may not be required to obtain an expanded criminal history check more than one (1) time during a five (5) year period.

Every teacher/staff and volunteers completes an extensive application requiring references, criminal background checks as well as drug testing. Each staff is required to take CPR/First Aid annually. In addition staff is required to take professional development courses to increase their proficiency in instructing students, as well as to prepare children with an education that equips them with the necessary tools to fulfill their Godly Purpose on earth.

Appendix B
Ambassador Christian Academy
Administrator, Classroom Teachers and Specials
2013-2014

Name: Dr. Vercena Stewart

Position: Principal/Administrator

Univ. or College: Indiana University Northwest; Chicago Theological Seminary

Degree and Date: Bachelor of Science 1974

Masters of Divinity 1993

Doctorate of Ministry 1996

Specialty Area: Elementary Education/ Administration/Pastoral Care & Counseling

License & yrs. teaching: no – 25-years teaching; 15 years administration

Dr. Stewart has worked in Christian education for 25 years. She has served as the Principal/Administrator for Ambassador Christian Academy for 5 years. Having a strong background in Christian education has been an asset to Ambassador Christian Academy and is in line with the mission of the school.

Name: Janie Cooper

Position: Kindergarten/Lower Elementary Administrator

Univ. or College: Purdue University

Degree and Date: Associates – 1991

Specialty Area: Early Childhood Ed.

License & yrs. teaching: no – 25

Mrs. Cooper has worked in education since 1986. She was employed by the Gary Community School Corporation as an assistant in the areas of early childhood education, elementary education, emotionally handicapped and visually impaired middle school students, and reading tutor. After leaving public education, Mrs. Cooper pursued a career in Christian education, working as a pre-school teacher for 4 years and an administrator in early and elementary education. She has worked as a kindergarten teacher at Ambassador Academy for 12 years having great success in providing children with a great foundation in academics and biblical principles that are in line with the mission of Ambassador Academy.

Name: Millicent Young-Latiker

Position: First Grade

Univ. or College: Purdue University

Degree and Date: Bachelors of Science – 1996

Specialty Area: General and Special Education

License & yrs. teaching: no – 20

(Passed: Praxis Tests: Reading, Writing, and Professional; Will take Praxis II in June 2013)

Mrs. Latiker taught 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 6th grade in the Gary Community School Corporation. She has also worked as a resource teacher for 5th grade in Crete, Illinois.

Name: Dionne Cobb

Position: Second Grade

Univ. or College: Goshen College

Degree and Date: Bachelor of Arts-2008

Specialty Area: Elementary Education

License & yrs. teaching: no – 10

Ms. Cobb taught ELS in Japan for 2 years, ABA Therapy for 5 years, 7th/8th Science & Social Studies and currently teaches 2nd grade.

Name: Kelly Laws

Position: Second Grade

Univ. or College: Indiana University Northwest/Calumet College (BS in process)

Degree and Date: Bachelor of Arts-1996

Specialty Area: Elementary, Course work in Secondary Education

License & yrs. teaching: no-19 years

Ms. Laws is currently completing last two courses for License Summer of 2013.

Name: Tashama Stokes

Position: Third Grade/Upper Elementary Administrator

Univ. or College: Calumet College/Keller Graduate School

Degree and Date: Bachelors of Science – 2000/MBA –Education Management of Corporations

Specialty Area: Elementary Education (course work in elementary education and private/public administration)

License & yrs. teaching: no – 8

Ms. Stokes is currently pursuing requirements for licensure in the IDOE for Elementary Education/Administration.

Name: Melinda DuBose

Position: Third Grade

Univ. or College: Governors State University

Degree and Date: Bachelor of Science-2005

Specialty Area: Elementary/Middle School Endorsement (Math)

License & yrs. teaching: yes in Illinois-7 years

Name: Mamie Laws
Position: Fourth Grade
Univ. or College: Wilberforce University & IUN
Degree and Date: Bachelor of Arts – 1989
Specialty Area: Political Science, General and Special Education
License & yrs. teaching: no – 23
Ms. Laws has worked in education for 23 years. While employed with the Gary Community School Corporation, she taught MOMH middle school students all subjects.

Name: Sheryl Araujo
Position: Fourth Grade
Univ. or College: Pacific Christian College/Calumet College of St. Joseph
Degree and Date: B.A. Bible/Cross Cultural Missions-1991/Transition to Teach 2013
Specialty Area: Transition to Teaching -Elementary Education
License & yrs. teaching: no –5
Mrs. Araujo will take Praxis II in 2013 and pursue licensure from IDOE.

Name: Doria Nielsen
Position: Fifth Grade
Univ. or College: Boise State University
Degree and Date: B.S. Elementary Education w/emphasis in English 1988/2010
Specialty Area: English and Language Arts
License & yrs. teaching: yes- 23 years
Mrs. Nielsen has been highly effective in teaching multi-grades students and has tutored students from K-9th grade.

Name: Michael Hendricks
Position: 6th-8th Grades Math/ Bible
Univ. or College: Texas A & M and Webster University 2008
Degree and Date: Bachelor of Science – 2006/ M.A. Management & Leadership
Specialty Area: Business
License & yrs. teaching: no –1
Mr. Hendricks taught in an Alternative Middle School in San Antonio, Texas. He is currently pursuing requirements for licensure from the IDOE.

Name: Yaminah Jackson
Position: 6th – 8th Science/Bible
Univ. or College: Worcester Polytechnic Institute-2008
Degree and Date: Bachelor of Science
Specialty Area: Chemical Engineering
License & yrs. teaching: no-1
Ms. Jackson has been a tutor, mentor and coach in Chicago, IL. She is currently pursuing requirements for licensure from the IDOE.

Name: Pamela Wilson
Position: 5th – 9th Social Studies/History
Univ. or College: Indiana University
Degree and Date: Bachelor of Science Elementary Education, 1991;
Master of Science Elementary Education. 1996
Specialty Area: Social Studies/History
License & yrs. teaching: no-13 years

Name: Jenae McKnight
Position: 6th – 8th English/LA/Social Studies/Bible
Univ. or College: I.U. Bloomington/Chicago State/Lewis University
Degree and Date: B.S. Public Administration/Teaching Cert. /M.Ed. Admin
Bachelor of Science 1993
Master of Education 2006
Specialty Area: Language Arts/Administration
License & yrs. teaching: yes –19 years; IN-2019 expires

Name: Darky Acosta
Position: Spanish Instructor
Univ. or College: Ivy Tech College
Degree and Date: none
Specialty Area: Spanish
License & yrs. teaching: No-1 year
Ms. Acosta has taught Spanish at Ambassador Christian Academy for 1 year

Name: Thaddeus Carpenter
Position: Physical Education. Instructor
Univ. or College: Indiana Wesleyan-2 years
Degree and Date: None
Specialty Area: Physical Education
License & yrs. teaching: no – 5 years

Name: Mary Ann Evans
Position: Art
Univ. or College: Chicago Art Institute (6 months)
Degree and Date: none
Specialty Area: Art
License & yrs. teaching: no –8 year Ambassador Academy
Mrs. Evans worked in the Gary Community School Corporation for 7 years as a reading tutor. She has also worked as a Sunday School Teacher for 42 years. Her formal training in art education came from the Chicago Art Institute in Chicago, Illinois.

Name: Gloria Jones
Position: Computer Instructor
University or College: Sawyer Business College; Current Technologies
Degree and Date: 60 credit hours

Specialty: Computer Technology

License & years teaching: no-13 years Computer & Tech Support

Mrs. Jones is a temporary part-time instructor for Computer Classes for Middle School.