



**Indiana State Board of Education
Request for Freeway School Accreditation**

Board Date: July 3, 2013

School: Kingdom Academy

Education Director: Jeff Leman

Address: 225 Ferguson Park Court
Bluffton, Indiana

Grade Span: K-12

Public/Private: Private

Current Enrollment: 68

Targeted Population: Families seeking a faith-based non-public school environment

Identity: Kingdom Academy of Bluffton, Indiana is a small private school established to give students an individual, challenging and spiritual worldview. The families that send their children to Kingdom Academy represent two congregations of the Apostolic Christian Church from the Wells and Adams county areas. The day to day function of Kingdom Academy revolves around the parents of Kingdom Academy students volunteering in some capacity at the school.

Curriculum: The current curriculum offered to our high school students is modeled after the Indiana Core 40 and Academic Honors diploma programs.

Testing History: Kingdom Academy consistently exceeds the state averages in ISTEP testing in both math and language arts. They additionally utilize the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, PSAT, SAT and ACT use results to monitor student skill levels and progress.

Staffing: Most teachers are experience and licensed. This is typical of other Freeway schools.

Waiver Requests: 1.) Drug and other substance abuse curriculum. This is covered in all areas of their curriculum in keeping with their faith. 2.) Textbooks. Our textbooks are



evaluated by administrators, teachers, school board, and parents for educational standards and for a reflection of the Christian worldview that is represented by our mission statement.

Issues: None

Recommendations: Full Five-Year Freeway Accreditation

Kingdom Academy
Petition for Freeway Accreditation Renewal
June, 2013

1. Identify the school entity to be declared a Freeway School

Kingdom Academy of Bluffton, Indiana is a small private school established to give students an individual, challenging and spiritual worldview. The schools mission statement reads, "With God's grace and wisdom, Kingdom Academy will strive to develop young men and women with an education, character and values that will allow them to be a light and witness wherever God places them, so that they may fulfill Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father, which is in Heaven."

Kingdom Academy was formed in 2001 by five families from the Apostolic Christian Church. The school's present enrollment of 68 students with six full time teachers as of the 2012-2013 school year. Kingdom Academy is also unique in that it is run independently of the Apostolic Christian Church, but still maintains the teaching and doctrine of the church to guide the school; along with many faithful generous supporters and volunteers Kingdom Academy is able to keep the student to teacher ratio low to provide the best individualized education possible.

In October of 2005 construction of the new Kingdom Academy School was completed. The school was designed using 24,000 square feet and provides nine classrooms, cafeteria, stage, mezzanine, library/computer lab and gym. At full capacity Kingdom Academy can hold up to 120 students.

Kingdom Academy is committed to the use of technology in education. Students are supervised to help download software, install hardware and deal with minor technical issues. Kingdom Academy has a total of 36 personal computers which equates to one computer for every two students. So they have ample opportunity for the use of technology during the school day.

Kingdom Academy has graduated a total of twenty eight seniors, since the last approved accreditation filing back in September 2007. Many of the graduates excelled in their academics at Kingdom Academy, standardized tests, such as the ISTEP and the ECA tests, along with the SAT and ACT test to help them go on to four year universities. The current curriculum offered to our high school students is modeled after the Indiana Core 40 and Academic Honors diploma programs.

Although Kingdom Academy does not have an organized sports program, students at Kingdom Academy have many school sponsored opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities. They include activities such as singing and serving at school fund raising dinners, annual school play, Boy Scouts, and many other community service projects that span kindergarten through twelfth grade.

2. Provide the demographic data pertinent to this request.

Currently a requirement for admission to Kingdom Academy is for the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the student being registered is to attend the Apostolic Christian Church and support the statement of faith of the denomination. The families that send their children to Kingdom Academy represent two congregations of the Apostolic Christian Church from the Wells and Adams county areas.

In the fall of 2011 Kingdom Academy started their own Preschool for children that are four years old by June 1. Kingdom Academy offers only morning preschool. The admission to Kingdom Academy Preschool is open to parent(s) or guardian(s) of the student being registered is to attend the Apostolic Christian Church and support the statement of faith of the denomination. The hope is that all the preschool children will continue their education at Kingdom Academy and then become future graduates.

The day to day function of Kingdom Academy revolves around the parents of Kingdom Academy students volunteering in some capacity at the school. Many parents work as teacher aids in the classrooms or assisting in the cafeteria. Kingdom Academy's music teacher, art teacher, and cafeteria coordinator are all parent volunteers knowledgeable in their respective areas. The school board and trustees are all unpaid as well. There is a daily rotation of fathers who start the school day with prayer, and each family is also expected to clean the school on their predetermined week.

3. Identify the statutes and rules to be suspended as a result of this contract.

Kingdom Academy strives to maintain a high level of academic achievement. The primary methods of achieving this goal are through Christian education, low teacher to student ratio and parent involvement. The statutes and rules that Kingdom Academy is asking to be suspended are due to a conflict or potential conflict with our mission statement or because the methods and resources allow for other options in achieving the goals of the statutes.

IC 20-30-5-11 (Drug Education)

The primary responsibility of drug education is that of the student's parents as a part of their Christian education. Kingdom Academy has very strict policies on tobacco, alcohol and drug use. With the support of our teachers regular classroom instruction to reinforce drug education a separate curriculum would be redundant.

Kingdom Academy does not offer bus transportation to students so many families carpool with student's kindergarten through twelfth grade riding together. Therefore; the school strives to maintain a consistent schedule for all grades. If it is found that

our students are not meeting the schools or states educational standards, the Kingdom Academy school board has expressed its willingness to revise the school schedule.

511 IAC 6.1-5-5 (Textbook adoption)

Our curriculum is evaluated by administrators, teachers, school board, and parents for educational standards and for a reflection of the Christian worldview that is represented by our mission statement. Our curriculum is from a variety of sources including: Saxon Math, A Beka Books, J. Wile, Barron's, Bob Jones, Christian Liberty Press, Math-U-See, Christian Light Education, Progeny Press, Rosetta Stone, and other resources deemed appropriate and beneficial.

4. Set forth the minimum educational benefits to be attained as a result to this contract.

- Students at Kingdom Academy will understand and develop a Christian worldview.
- Students at Kingdom Academy will learn to discern and develop their spiritual gifts to be used towards their future vocation.
- Students will integrate the Bible and its teachings into their education.
- Students will be prepared academically, emotionally, and spiritually for higher education or employment.
- Students will keep participating in ISTEP to allow for direct comparison to others schools.
- Students will develop skills in core academic areas as well as exposure to technology.
- Students will develop a respect for themselves and others as a part of God's creation.
- Students will develop the skills to resolve conflict peaceably and with respect for others.

5. Describe the privileges which are to be granted as a result of this contract.

- A. Students will remain able to transfer credits from Kingdom Academy to other schools if desired.

- B. Graduates will remain able to participate in a wide variety of scholarship programs that is currently available because of the school accreditation.
- C. Kingdom Academy offers Core 40, Academic Honors or other diplomas developed by the Department of Education that demonstrate a higher level of academic achievement.
- D. Parents will continue to be able to offer their children an education that is consistent with both the state educational standards and their own Christian convictions.
- E. Teachers will maintain broader opportunities to participate in professional development.
- F. Teachers will remain able to certify as professional educators based on their work in an accredited school.

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

The benchmark that will determine that the educational benefits are being attained at Kingdom Academy include annual data on (a) attendance rate, (b) scores on standardized tests (listed under 6.B below) and (c) student graduation rate.

- A. Attendance: The attendance of students in grades Preschool through twelfth is carefully tracked by the school office and is above 90 percent. Parents are required to call and inform the school of an absence. The goal of Kingdom Academy continues to be an attendance rate of 90 percent. Truancy problems are a rarity at Kingdom Academy.
- B. Assessment: Kingdom Academy administers Standardized Tests annually on the following schedule:
 - Grade 1-2 Iowa Test
 - Grade 3-8 IREAD, ISTEP and NWEA
 - Grade 9 ECA
 - Grade 10 PSAT, ISTEP and ECA
 - Grade 11 SAT and ACT tests taken at offsite locations
 - Grade 12 SAT and ACT tests taken at offsite locations.

The feedback from the testing above continues to provide Kingdom Academy parents, students, teachers and administration valuable and sufficient information.

- C. Graduation: Kingdom Academy has graduated 28 students since the last accreditation (including this current school year's seniors). Kingdom Academy averages over the 90th percentile consistently, with the goal that 100 percent of students will either graduate from Kingdom or transfer to another high school on-track for graduation.

7. Identify the strategies for the curriculum to address issues related to: Character education, hygiene, alcohol and drugs, sexually transmitted diseases, abstinence, honesty, respect, and restraint.

Kingdom Academy integrates parents as active participants in the education of its students. Although the school has a definite role in educating about the topics listed they have priority of being taught at home first. However; these topics are also addressed throughout the school year by teacher and parent led bible study and daily prayer and devotions that start each school day at Kingdom Academy. For older students these topics are also addressed appropriately in Home Economics and Health classes.

This mode of teaching at Kingdom Academy provides our students with opportunities of service, character education, and standards for morality and modesty through teaching/mentoring relationships with teachers and parents.

8. Give the plan for maintaining a safe and disciplined learning environment for students and teachers.

Prior to admittance to Kingdom Academy the school board meets with interested families one on one to discuss the academic and social expectations of their children. Parents sign a statement verifying they have read the school handbook and support the policies that govern Kingdom Academy. Through a dress code that prohibits clothing that would be offensive, and a morning prayer and devotions, a message of respect for God, teachers, fellow students and themselves, Kingdom Academy maintains an atmosphere conducive to promoting a solid, safe, and disciplined learning environment.

By encouraging parental involvement at Kingdom Academy many parents, teachers, and students are familiar with the classroom environment and the discipline and safety issues of the school. However; during the school day the doors of the school are locked. To gain entrance a teacher or parent volunteer monitors the main entrance with visitors signing in at the door. Visitors to the school need to call ahead or have an appointment prior to gaining access to the school.

Kingdom Academy models discipline after Matthew 18:15-17 by establishing different levels of discipline to accommodate issues that arise in the daily function of the classroom. The first level of discipline is within the classroom. The majority of discipline issues are successfully resolved between the teacher and student based on

the teacher's classroom rules and guidelines. Second, if discipline cannot be attained between teacher and student the principal or lead teacher will intervene to resolve the issue. The third level of discipline would be expanded to the parents of the student(s) and the school board to work through the disciplinary process together. Although the staff and school board would prefer to avoid expulsion, it will be used if the situation becomes disruptive to the learning environment and safety of the other students.

To further maintain a safe environment, Kingdom Academy practices fire and tornado drills on a regular schedule. To promote a safe health environment the school also participates in vaccination requirements, vision, hearing, and scoliosis screenings by a licensed nurse.

9. Give the plan by which students will be able to qualify and earn an academic honors diploma.

SUBJECT	CREDITS
English	8 Credits English 9 thru 12 along with Speech
Math	8 Credits Algebra I and II, Geometry, Advanced Math, Trigonometry and Calculus
Science	6 Credits Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Marine Biology, Physical Science, Advanced Chemistry, Advanced Biology, and Human Anatomy
Social Studies	6 Credits U.S. History, U.S. Government, Economics, World History, Geography
Health/ Physical Education	3 Credits Health and Physical Education
Foreign Language	6 Credits French, German, Spanish or Japanese
Fine Arts	2 Credits Music, Art, Keyboarding, Computer Literacy 1 & 2, Wiring and Auto Trades
Electives	Minimum of 6 Credits Most courses are listed above

Publications, Home Economics, Consumer Math, Business and Creative Writing

Total **45-47 Credits**

**To be eligible for an Academic Honors Diploma, students must:

1. Earn a grade of “C” or above in courses that will count toward the diploma.
2. Have a grade point average of “B” or above.
3. Complete one of the following:
 - Academic, transferable dual high school/college courses resulting in 6 college credits.
 - Score of 1750 or higher combined SAT with a minimum of 530 in each section.
 - Score a 26 composite ACT

10. The contract must identify the quantitative measures which will be used to determine that the terms of this contract are being carried out.

In order to determine that the terms of this contract are being met by Kingdom Academy, the school will send all reports annually to the Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction that is required. These reports will include Preschool-12 attendance rates, student graduation rates, standardized test scores, and college acceptance and matriculation rates etc....

Kingdom Academy Elementary Teachers

Preschool

Mrs. Tanya Girod

- 1 year teaching experience
- No teaching license
- Mrs. Jean Compton, licensed teacher is the teacher of record

Kindergarten

Mrs. Rachel Towle

- 1st year teaching
- no teaching license
- Mrs. Jean Compton, licensed teacher is the teacher of record

First, Second and Third Grade

Mr. Matt Drayer

- Licensed 1st through 5th grades
- B.S. Indiana-Purdue University at Fort Wayne
- 8 ½ years of teaching experience

Fourth and Fifth Grade

Mrs. Jean Compton

- Life license
- B.S. Purdue University
- M.S. Education Purdue University
- 35 years of teaching experience

Kingdom Academy Junior High and High School Teachers

Language Arts, Publications, Home Economics and Government

Mrs. Melissa Bussel

- B.S. Pittsburgh State University
- M.S. Secondary Education Indiana-Purdue University at Fort Wayne
- 13 years of teaching experience

World History, American History, Economics, Health, Biology, Physics, and Chemistry

Mr. Ryan Bertsch

- 5th through 12th grade General and Physical Science temporary license
- B.S. Indiana-Purdue University at Fort Wayne
- 8 years of teaching experience

Mathematics, Computer Literacy, Accounting, and Business Math

Mr. Quinn Fiechter

- 6th through 12th grade Mathematics Rules 46-47 license
- Lead teacher
- B.S. Indiana-Purdue University at Fort Wayne
- 8 years of teaching experience