

MOUNTAINBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In Arkansas' Most Scenic School District

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Elementary School Principal
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April 13, 2023

Dear Charter Authoring Panel Members,

I respectfully request a charter amendment for Mountainburg Middle School Brain Academy to reconfigure grade levels. Middle school currently serves students in grades 5-8, with approximately 42 students per grade level. We seek approval to amend the charter for the Middle School Brain Academy to serve grades 6-8, with 5th grade remaining in the Elementary which currently serves grades K-4.

This request is based on our work to best serve our students considering several factors including academics, behavior, stages of adolescent development, and social needs. We feel certain fifth graders will benefit from an additional year in the elementary school considering stages of development in relation to the other grade bands, levels of maturity, and instructional needs. Fifth grade will be structured with a two-person team with extended blocks of time for literacy and math instruction in preparation for transitions from single teacher classrooms in lower grades to multiple courses and teachers in upper grades.

Middle School will continue to focus instructional programming for grades 6-8 on the principles of their charter to engage the brain in learning through physical activity and personal goal setting, strong academics, and STEM and career exploration.

Factor such as enrollment, class sizes, staffing, building design, and student support in both schools are favorable to these grade level configurations for both efficiency and effectiveness.

We appreciate your consideration of this request. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Dr. Debbie Atwell
Superintendent
Mountainburg Public Schools