

# The Academy of Okmulgee



Dec 21, 2023

Application for New Site In Okmulgee for The Academy of Seminole  
Oklahoma State Board of Education

# Advance Rural Education

**Advance Rural Education (ARE) founded in March 2016**

The logo for Advance Rural Education (ARE) is located in the top right corner. It consists of a solid orange rectangle containing the words "Advance Rural" in a white, sans-serif font, with "EDUCATION" in a larger, bold, white, sans-serif font below it. A light blue horizontal bar is positioned directly beneath the orange rectangle.

Advance Rural  
EDUCATION

- A non-profit with a 100-year vision founded by Paul Campbell
- That vision is based on the following beliefs
  - Genius is equally distributed across the planet, but opportunity isn't, yet
  - Every student has a unique gift and set of strengths
  - Self awareness and empowerment are critical to the future
- FREE PK-12 Life Planning Public Schools
- Based on inclusion and empowerment
- ...so far our results have been phenomenal.

# The Academy of Seminole



- Founded in January 2017 by Advance Rural Education
- Located on 10 acres in downtown Seminole, OK
- A free PK-12 Life Planning School
  - Our warm and supportive elementary focuses on relationships, reading, and self awareness
  - Our middle school introduces the student to the world via the lense of a rich STEAM program (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math)
  - In High School, your life plan kicks into high gear. More on that in a minute.



# The Academy of Seminole



- Our results?
  - US News ranked us 37th out of 396th Oklahoma schools
  - OPSRC recognized TAOS as one of three OK schools to see “extraordinary growth in reading and math”
  - Top score in Seminole county on our State Report Card with a “B” overall and an “A” in Academic Growth. Ranked 5<sup>th</sup> on the State Report Card of Oklahoma charter schools.
- 53 graduates so far, with 100% life plans complete
  - Of those 53, 34 chose college and had a least 1 year already completed, free (20 graduated with associate degrees)
  - Two years in a row TAOS students have led the honor society at Seminole State College
  - 12 graduated with at least one year of career tech
  - 7 went straight into the workforce or volunteering. We helped them all find jobs.

# Life Planning – what is it?

- Life planning is the process of self awareness for Spartans
- At our schools, it's a 4-year process that begins the first of your freshman year and culminates on graduation night when each senior presents their life plan to the community
- A students life plan consists of a deep understanding of ...
  - the unique strengths and gifts they each bring to the community
  - their values of which they have integrated them into their behaviors
  - how they will contribute to the community through vocation and volunteering
  - what opportunities they have after graduation
  - what they need to do next with respect to the path they have chosen 1. College 2. Career Tech 3 Workforce/Entrepreneur



# What's critical to our success?

- **Our belief:** is that Every student has a unique gift and set of strengths to contribute to our community. That they can become empowered and inclusive.
- **Our culture:** If the student has a problem, the school has a problem. We DO NOT delegate our student problems outside of our control.
- **Our community:** each school is designed by community members and the school, from startup to success, will look like the community it serves.
- **Our people:** we hire the educators that fit our philosophy and coach them to help create a culture of collaboration.
- **Our partners:** Each site partners with a college/university, industry and a technology center to facilitate life planning



# The Leadership Team

- **Paul Campbell** – Founder, CEO and Board Chair of Advance Rural Education and it's schools. Founder and CEO of Spartan Energy Services and a limited partner at Cortado Ventures.
- **Wren Hawthorne** – President Advance Rural Education and Superintendent of schools
- **Sheri Bray** – Director of Life Planning
- **Tammy Potter** – Head of School, The Academy of Seminole, lifelong Seminole resident
- **And soon...** - Head of School, The Academy of Okmulgee

# The Academy of Okmulgee Launch

- With approval of the State Board, TAOS, in conjunction with ARE, will start grades PK-8 in the fall of 2024
- 2025-28 add one grade each until full PK-12 status
- The Academy of Okmulgee will be part of the TAOS public life planning school network, free and open to all.
- Projections of 180 students in the first year, growing to a school with somewhere between 250 to 320 students by the fifth year.
- The Board of Stonebridge Academy, a private school located in Okmulgee, Oklahoma has voted to transfer its facilities to The Academy of Seminole. Stonebridge Academy will close during the summer of 2024, and the assets of Stonebridge will transfer to the new site. The Board of Stonebridge, staff, and parents have been part of the planning process for the new school. We expect most of the current families to enter their child into the lottery process for the new site.





# The Academy of Okmulgee Launch

- Financial independence (without reliance on fundraising) of charter school by the fifth year.

|                                   | 2024-2025    | 2025-2026    | 2026-2027    | 2027-2028    | 2028-2029    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total Revenue                     | \$2,760,667  | \$2,711,568  | \$2,602,186  | \$2,530,616  | \$2,545,402  |
| Total Expenditures                | \$2,512,869  | \$2,155,880  | \$2,169,507  | \$2,234,592  | \$2,301,629  |
| Carry Over (Cumulative)           | \$247,797    | \$555,688    | \$432,679    | \$296,025    | \$243,772    |
|                                   |              |              |              |              |              |
| Viersen Building/Gift Fund Yearly | \$300,000    | \$250,000    | \$250,000    | \$200,000    | \$150,000    |
| Total                             |              | \$550,000    | \$800,000    | \$1,000,000  | \$1,150,000  |
|                                   |              |              |              |              |              |
| Notes/Assumptions:                | 180 Students | 200 Students | 220 Students | 240 Students | 260 Students |
|                                   | 24 Employees | 26 Employees | 28 Employees | 28 Employees | 28 Employees |

# The Academy of Okmulgee Support

The Academy of Okmulgee will lead to a vibrant, new school site because there is:

- A proven track record and model with The Academy of Seminole
- Strong local community support with over 350 signatures of support, well attended open houses, and strong planning group
- Financial support and resources including buildings and financial resources. Received NewSchools Venture Fund Grant for innovative new charter school startups.
- A strong desire to collaborate with all public organizations who want to serve students. OSUIT will be a partner in our early college program, and we hope to add CMN and Green Country. Example of success in this partnership happened last week with one of our seniors Olivia Crabtree who graduated with Applied Science degree with a health concentration. She received her associates before she gets her high school diploma! She will be continuing her education at ECU where she will be getting her Bachelor's of Nursing degree in the Spring of 2026.



# Comments/Questions

“If a child can’t learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn.”

-Ignacio Estrada