

**AMENDMENT TO CHARTER FOR
ISLAND VILLAGE MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL, INC.**

d/b/a

ISLAND VILLAGE MONTESSORI SCHOOL

ISLAND VILLAGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

ISLAND VILLAGE MONTESSORI NORTH

THIS AMENDMENT is entered into this 21st day of August, 2012, by and between **The School Board of Sarasota County, Florida**, a body corporate under the laws of the State of Florida (the Sponsor"), and **Island Village Montessori Charter School, Inc.**, a nonprofit organization organized under the laws of the State of Florida ("School").

WHEREAS, Parties hereto entered into a Charter Contract (the "Charter") on June 15, 2010, with a term commencing July 1, 2010, and expiring on June 30, 2025, to renew a Charter School;

WHEREAS, the School is a high-performing charter school as defined by Section 1002.331, Florida Statutes;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 1002.331(2)(b), Florida Statutes, the School is authorized to expand grade levels;

WHEREAS, the School has notified the Sponsor that it intends to expand its grade levels by adding up to 20 9th grade students for the 2012-13 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Parties hereto desire to amend the Charter under the following terms and conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties hereby agree as follows:

1. Part II(A) and (B)(1)(a) of the Charter are amended to provide that the School will serve students in grades Kindergarten through 9th grade.

2. Part II(E)(1) is deleted in its entirety and replaced by the following:

E. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

1. Island Village Montessori School and Island Village Montessori North were originally chartered in 2001 and 2005 as Montessori programs for grades K-5. The Island Village Middle School was chartered as a program that emphasized the Montessori philosophy with an emphasis in computer-based instruction. IVMS will continue its focus on the Montessori curriculum, philosophy, and methodology. The Montessori method is a well-established curriculum that is over 100 years old and has successfully emigrated to almost every country in the world. There are presently over 6,000 Montessori schools in the United States alone including over 150 Montessori charter schools as well as hundreds of magnet schools across the country. The Montessori methodology emphasizes a constructivist approach to learning. IVMS uses a co-teaching, multi-age model, a slightly larger student group size with a lower student to teacher ratio (approximately 1:13 at all levels). Montessori is based on a developing partnership between students and educator that responds to the needs of all children, not just ESE or gifted populations. Differentiating instruction is a hallmark of the Montessori methodology as well as the use of instructional materials to teach advanced concepts to young children. Children progress from practice with concrete materials to exercises on paper and in digital form. Older students continue individualized learning through the use of Web-based and computer-assisted instruction. The school will continue this model of instruction with a mixture of Montessori materials for younger students and computer based instruction for older students over the course of the charter contract. Students also are taught to be self-directed learners who are responsible for their learning through the use of work plans and academic contracts that become more extensive over time and experience in the system. IVMS 8th grade graduates are prepared to meet the academic challenges of high school. The school will continue its focus in the development of self-direction, self-advocacy, and responsibility for learning. The Montessori method considers mastery in these areas to be as important as academic achievement.

IVMS is extending its secondary program one grade level to 9th grade beginning in the 2012-2013 school year. The 9th grade option is intended for current

IVMS students who have completed their 8th grade year at the school. This 9th grade program will provide a challenging academic curriculum with continued focus on using Montessori pedagogy and differentiated instruction to meet the needs of the whole child. Electives with emphasis in the arts and foreign language will continue to be provided at this level. Subject appropriate materials will be used in addition to continued access to Web-based resources, textbooks, and technology.

Courses for 9th grade will be taught by IVMS certified instructors or offered through a blended, online model. The curriculum is designed to enable students to progress to a 10th grade program of their choice and be highly prepared for a learning track towards higher education.

Reading shall be emphasized across the curriculum. The pre-kindergarten, kindergarten through 2nd grade level will emphasize oral language development, sound-symbol correspondence, phonemic awareness, decoding, phonics and other word attack skills, fluency and initial reading comprehension skills. These skills shall be taught through the tradition Montessori curriculum and through research-based reading programs that are delivered through text and technology-aided instruction. Students in grades 3rd and 4th will experience a deeper practice of reading comprehension skills such as fluency, author's purpose, main idea, making inferences, reading for directions, exposure to and interpretation of various literary sources, newspapers, and periodicals for children, as well as appropriate Internet and other digital resources. Students in grades 5 - 9 will focus on reading to learn instead of learning to read. Practical applications of reading will be emphasized in all areas of the curriculum. Students will apply reading skills to research topics of interest, analyze current events, understand various literary genres, and become exposed to advanced vocabulary, including foreign language instruction to reinforce the understanding of

grammar and syntax in English. Reading will also be heavily integrated into the math and science curriculum in a focused effort to integrate subject areas to improve retention of information.

ESE and ELL students shall be included in all general education settings with appropriate tutoring and small group reinforcement of basic skills to promote faster progress toward English mastery. Students will engage in projects such as the creation of literary magazines, research studies, the study of authors and their influences, and experience a deep integration of language arts and social studies through an extended work time. Math and science will also be integrated through an extended work time. Integration of subject areas reinforces meaningful connections and aids in long-term retention of information and mastery. The traditional Montessori curriculum will be emphasized in grades pre-K through 3rd grades with some exposure to computer technology. Computer and Internet based technology will be heavily emphasized for grades 4-9.

The School will continue to develop comprehensive, Web-based models of instruction based on constructivist principles to bridge the gap between home and school and increase learning outcomes. Students who do not have computer access will be given opportunities to use school computers before or after school. Text-based alternatives will be available to students who have no access to a computer. Parents shall be made aware that technology plays a large part in a student's success in the upper grades and that all efforts should be made to provide regular access to the Internet after school hours (such as the public library system or wireless access). The School will donate computers being rotated out of service to families in need and provide basic training on such use.

In addition to academics, the School will promote the arts as an important component of the School's future

direction. Classes in drama, dance, creative writing, improvisation, music, visual arts, digital arts, and video production will be offered to students on a regular basis. The School will seek partnerships with community resources such as the Venice Theater, Venice Symphony, music, visual and performing arts departments of Venice High School and State College of Florida to give students a sense of future possibilities in the arts. Regular opportunities for displaying and performing will occur throughout the school year to give students the opportunity to develop talents as well as an ability to perform for peers and family members.

Students will also be encouraged to study foreign languages from an early age. Some classes maybe designated as environments with a focus on English as well as another language. With the use of programs such as Rosetta Stone or Florida Virtual School (FLVS), students in grades 6 through 9 will be given opportunities to study a second language. Currently, the School offers high school credit in algebra, geometry, and foreign languages such as Spanish, French, and Latin as part of their middle-level program. These offerings will change as staff certifications change, however, it is the intent of the School to offer a variety of high school credit options to 7th and 8th grade students. Students in 9th grade may then pursue level II language courses upon satisfactory completion of level I language courses in 8th grade.

The School will continue to develop its own reading plan and submit to the District as required by law. The School will annually determine schedules that meet the requirements of law. The School will implement the district's Student Progression Plan for promotion, retention, and graduation.

3. All other provisions of the Charter shall remain in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Amendment as of the date first above written.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA

ISLAND VILLAGE MONTESSORI
CHARTER SCHOOL, INC.

BY: _____
Caroline G. Zucker, Chair

BY: _____
Kindra Muntz
President, Board of Dirs.

Its: _____

Approved for Legal Content
August 9, 2012, by Matthews, Eastmoore
Hardy, Crauwels & Garcia, Attorneys for
The School Board of Sarasota County, Florida
Signed: _____ASH_____