



*Empowering Enrichment & Innovation*

# **Kato Public Charter School (Dist#4066)**

*Annual Report*

*December 2022*

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## **I. Preface**

### **A. History of the School**

Kato Public Charter School district #4066 was established under the name Riverbend Academy in July of 2000, opening the doors to students grades 7-12 to provide innovative learning options to students in the Mankato, MN area. In 2005, the school program was expanded to include a 6th-grade curriculum. Established with the intention to consistently respond to the needs of the local community and student population, the school has undergone many changes as it adapted to the changing needs of the community throughout the years. In 2014 Riverbend Academy changed its name to Kato Public Charter School as it recognized the need for the community to identify and understand what the charter school has to offer.

Today, Kato Public Charter School continues to make an impact and provide the community with different educational options for students and families in grades 6-12. This is done through individualized, flexible, differentiated & blending learning, along with a supplemental online learning platform. Kato Public Charter School exists today to make a difference for students who have a need for smaller classroom sizes, individualized and blended learning plans, and the aspiration to seek out their true and highest potential in becoming part of the future workforce.

### **B. Mission**

To provide unique educational experiences that introduce students to real-world situations through experiential learning, community engagement, post-secondary educational opportunities, and learning agreements tailored to the individual needs of our students based on Minnesota graduation requirements.

### **C. Vision**

To develop well-rounded, confident, and responsible individuals who aspire to achieve their full potential.

### **D. Values**

Community - Life Skills Development, Volunteerism and Giving Back

Responsibility - Independent Living and Citizenship

Respect - Of Self and Others

Growth - Academic Success, Knowledge Attainment and personal growth

## **II. Governance and Management**

### **A. Authorizer Information**

Kato Public Charter School is pleased to have the opportunity to function under the authorization of Novation Education Opportunities (NEO).

### **B. Contact information for NEO**

Novation Education Opportunities (NEO)

Attn: Wendy Swanson-Choi

3432 Denmark Ave.

Eagan, MN 55123

(612) 889-2103 Phone

[www.neoauthorizer.org](http://www.neoauthorizer.org)

### **C. WBWF Requirement (Advisory Committee):**

The district advisory committee must reflect the diversity of the school site. It must include teachers, parents, support staff, students, and other community residents. Parents and other community residents are to comprise at least two-thirds of advisory committee members, when possible. The school advisory committee makes recommendations to the school board.

### **WBWF Advisory Committee 2021-2022**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>
Destiny Owens	Community Member/Chair
Tammy Burman	Community Member
Melodie Charlton	Parent
Matthew DuRose	Community Member
Tracy Stokes-Hernandez	Community Member
Pamela Femrite	Community Member
Mymique Baxter	Ex-Officio
Kristen Flowers	Ex-Officio

#### **D. Board of Directors 2021-2022**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>
Destiny Owens	Community Member/Chair
Tammy Burman	Teacher
Melodie Charlton	Parent
Matthew DuRose	Community Member
Tracy Stokes-Hernandez	Community Member
Pamela Femrite	Community Member
Mymique Baxter	Ex-Officio
Kristen Flowers	Ex-Officio

#### **E. Board of Directors Training**

The Board of Director's primary responsibility is to provide supervision of the school's Director and the oversight of the school. Duties include but are not limited to, Policy creation, budgeting, curriculum programming personnel, and operating procedures. All board members receive annual training throughout their term. All new Board of Directors attend initial training (within 6 months of being elected to the Board):

- Board's Role and Responsibilities
- Employment Policies & Practices
- Financial Management

#### **F. Board, Director and Staff Professional Development**

Kato Public Charter School is committed to supplying professional development to the Director, as well as the staff and the charter school Board of Directors. The Director, staff, and/or charter school board members participated in the following professional development for the 2021-2022 school year:

- Human Resources training through EdVisions Cooperative
- Training on bullying & suicide prevention
- Training on board roles and responsibilities
- Training on employment policies & practices
- Training on financial management
- Attended annual NEO authorizer meeting

### **G. Administration 2021-2022**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>
Kristen Flowers	Business Manager
Tammy Prewitt	Student Services Coordinator
Marla Hueser	Academic Advisor
Mymique Baxter	Principal/Director

### **H. Leadership Evaluation**

The KPCS Board of Directors evaluated the leadership on a quarterly basis with a summative evaluation at the end of the school year (June 30th).

### **I. Staff Information 2021-2022**

Below is the complete list of Kato Public Charter School staff during the 2021-2022 school year. File folder numbers are included for licensed staff.

#### **Licensed Staff**

<b>Name</b>	<b>License/File Folder</b>	<b>Position</b>
Dr. Mymique Baxter	0411112	Principal/Science Education
Tammy Burman	0461064	Special Education Teacher
Cummings, Sarah	1008742	Science Education
Grossman, Brent	0503700	Elementary Education/MS Social Studies
Jacaruso, Martin	1012031	MS Health & Physical Education
Krulich, Kim	1008434	Language Arts Education
Macemon, Jon	1001888	Art Education
McLaughlin, Carey	0369647	Language Arts Education
Nemitz, Matt	1011697	Math Education

#### **Non-Certified Staff**

Eva Borneke	NA	Title 1 Paraprofessional
Maria Baxter-Nuamah	NA	Title 1 Paraprofessional
Donald Gray	NA	Special Education Paraprofessional

## **J. Staff Development**

The primary focus for 2021-2022 was Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). Kato Public Charter School was selected to join the 16th Annual Cohort offered by the Minnesota Department of Education. We continued to focus on school-wide culture change for our students. All staff members participated in the initial PBIS training. The success of PBIS is heightened when all adults at the school have a working knowledge of both philosophy and the strategies that result in positive behaviors and student success.

Kato Public Charter School administration and staff have collectively embraced new collective school values and are prepared to reinforce the teacher/staff behaviors that promote positive student behaviors and success. During our August special education retreat, our entire staff had training on transgender students and attended a presentation facilitated by Designs for Learning called "Special Education 101". We also had Harassment in the Workplace, FERPA, CPR, Blood Borne Pathogens, Epipen, and Seizure training. Teachers seeking licensure renewal also participated in Cultural Competency training among other required training.

## **K. Equitable Access to Excellent Teachers**

**WBWF Requirement:** WBWF requires schools to have a process in place to ensure low-income students, students of color, and American Indian students are not taught at disproportionate rates by ineffective, inexperienced, and out-of-field teachers. The legislation also requires that districts have strategies to increase equitable access to effective and diverse teachers.

- An **ineffective teacher** is defined as a teacher who is not meeting professional teaching standards as defined in local teacher development and evaluation (TDE) systems.
- An **inexperienced teacher** is defined as a licensed teacher who has been employed for three or fewer years.
- An **out-of-field teacher** is defined as a licensed teacher who is providing instruction in an area in which he or she is not licensed.

Kato Public Charter School is a small 6th-12th grade school. We have a population of approximately 65 students. Our students have access to all teachers during their time at KPCS, as either their advisor, core content, or special education classroom teacher.

### **III. Finances**

Payroll and insurance coverage for employees are managed by EdVisions Cooperative. They also provide us with staff development opportunities, and human resources support. The annual financial audit resulted in no compliance findings, suggestions for improvement, or negative comments. Financial Audit completed by Abdo, Eick & Meyers LLP.

As management of the Kato Public Charter School (the School), we offer readers of the School's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the School for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022.

#### **Financial Highlights**

- The assets of the School exceeded its liabilities at the close of the most recent fiscal year by \$141,427 (*net position*). Of this amount, \$109,651 (*unrestricted net position*) may be used to meet the School's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.
- The School's total net position decreased by \$36,586 as compared to a decrease of \$15,443 in the prior year. This decrease is mostly due to a decrease in operating grants of about \$9,000 and a decrease in special education instruction of approximately \$34,000 when compared to the prior year. Operating grants decreased due to funding related to Covid-19 and regular instruction costs increased due to a change in staffing needs.
- As of the close of the current fiscal year, the School's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$113,536, a decrease of \$181,622 from the prior year. Of the total fund balance, \$102,274 is *available for spending* at the School's discretion (*unassigned fund balance*). The remainder of the fund balance (\$11,262) is not available for spending because it is either unspendable for prepaid items (\$7,090) or restricted (\$4,172).
- At the end of the current fiscal year, the unassigned fund balance for the General fund was \$102,274 or 8.1 percent of total General Fund expenditures. This means that the General fund balance has reserves to cover about three months of expenditures.
- The School's enrollment in the fiscal year 2022 was 55 Average Daily Membership (ADM) compared with 54 ADM in the fiscal year 2021. The ADM for the next fiscal year is estimated to be 65.



#### **IV. Student Information 2021-2022**

##### **A. Student Enrollment 2021-2022: Middle School (EOY)**

<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>
<b>6</b>	4	6	
<b>7</b>	5	4	
<b>8</b>	8	6	
<b>Totals</b>	17	16	

##### **Student Enrollment 2020-2021: High School (EOY)**

<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>
<b>9</b>	14	16	
<b>10</b>	2	12	
<b>11</b>	10	5	
<b>12</b>	21	8	
<b>Totals</b>	47	41	

**B. Demographics 2021-2022 (Throughout the year)**

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Total Enrollment	64	78	
Male	31	32	
Female	32	46	
Special Education	20	24	
African American	13	20	
Asian	0	0	
Hispanic	6	7	
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0	
White	49	62	
American Indian	11	9	
F/R Lunch	27	52	
LEP	3	1	

**C. Student Attendance 2021-2022 (throughout the year)**

Attendance ended for the year at 76.47% overall average for grades 6-12.

Grade 6	79.86%
Grade 7	77.40%
Grade 8	72.12%
Grade 9	81.21%
Grade 10	73.22%
Grade 11	77.33%
Grade 12	73.23%

#### **D. Student Attrition 2019-2020**

We began the school year, 2021-2022 with a total student count of 51 (10/1/21) overall, and an average enrollment of 54 students. The year ended with 57 (6/10/22) students.

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Beginning	55	51	
Ending	58	57	

#### **V. Academic Performance 2021-2022**

##### **ACT**

Content Area	Benchmark Ready Percentile	# of Students that took test	# of Students that Meet Benchmark	Percentage
Math	22	6	0	0%
Science	23	6	0	0%
English	18	6	2	33%
Reading	22	6	0	0%

##### **Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA's) 2021-2022**

Content Area	Grade	# of Students that took test	# of Students that Meet Benchmark	Percentage
Reading	6	6	3	50%
	7	4	0	0%
	8	6	2	33%
	9	-		
	10	10	5	50%
	11	-		
	12	-		

### Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA's) 2021-2022

Content Area	Grade	# of Students that took test	# of Students that Meet Benchmark	Percentage
Math	6	6	0	0%
	7	4	0	0%
	8	6	1	16%
	9	-		
	10	-		
	11	6	1	16%
	12	-		

### Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA's) 2021-2022

Content Area	Grade	# of Students that took test	# of Students that Meet Benchmark	Percentage
Science	8	6	2	33%
	High School	12	4	25%

### Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) 2021-2022

Minimum Composite Score = (Armed Forces Qualification Test - AFQT) Army 31		
Student Grade	Student Score	BenchMark Ready? Yes or No
11	61	Y
11	57	Y
11	19	N
11	27	N
12	9	N
12	12	N
12	35	Y

## **VI. Operational Performance**

### **A. Learning Environment**

We believe that learning is enhanced when students feel valued and heard. At Kato Public Charter School we are setting high expectations for school-wide behaviors where all students respect themselves, others, and property, are responsible for their actions, and are ready for any situation. Each staff member makes a concerted effort to connect with each student as a means to establish a genuine personal connection. This allows us to create a positive climate where students can comfortably take educational risks and enjoy collaborative learning.

### **B. Integrated Curriculum**

Here at Kato Public Charter School. We have an integrated curriculum that connects different areas of study by cutting across subject-matter lines and emphasizing unifying concepts. Our Integration focuses on making connections with students, allowing them to engage in relevant, meaningful activities that can be connected to real life.

### **C. Parent Survey**

Every Winter Kato Public Charter School distributes a family satisfaction survey to parents/guardians of KPCS students. In answer to the statement: Are you satisfied with academic instruction your child is receiving at KPCS? Over 91.30% of the 23 parent surveys received responded either agree or strongly agree to this question.

### **D. Community & Parent Opportunities**

Kato Public Charter School offers a variety of opportunities for parents, families, and community members to visit or volunteer. We have had Covid-19 vaccination clinics, Red Cross blood drives, and student engagement nights.

## **VII. Innovative Practices**

Here at Kato Public Charter School, we use experiential learning whereby students apply content knowledge, critical thinking, and good judgment to address genuine community needs.

- We have Individualized Academic Plans for 9th-12th
  - (Each student has unique needs for completing graduation requirements)
- Experiential and Differentiated Learning within the classroom setting
- General Enrichment (Including Summer Programming)
  - Experiential learning and student engagement (based on student's voice)
  - Being there and having hands-on experience
    - (Performing Arts, Ordway, Chanhassen Dinner Theater,)
  - Living Earth Garden (Blue Earth County)
    - Sustainable Living and 4-H Community Service Project
  - 4-H Rabbits (Also used for Emotional Therapy)
    - 4 students won State Fair trips with rabbits
    - Planning, presentations, and public speaking
  - 4-H Arts & Crafts (Artwork, Group and Individual Student projects)
    - Blue Earth County Fair, MN State fair
    - Summer program K-12
  - 4-H Archery (4-H shooting sports)
  - College Campus Visits
- Friday Enrichment Participation classes (Based on student's voice)
  - Friday enrichment classes was the idea of a student and stemmed from a Social Studies class and was voted on by staff and students for a pilot program.
  - Chess, Dungeons & Dragons, Canning, Drama, Guitar, Creative Writing, Finance-12th grade, Video Gaming, Dance, Wood Working, Jewelry Making
- Edmentum (Web-Based elective and recovery curriculum)
- Edmentum (Also used for early graduation)

## **VIII. Future Plans**

- Hiring Practices
  - Kato Public Charter School is looking for staff that has similar personal values.
- Student Focused Staff Development
- Trauma Informed Counseling and Group Discussions

- Increase the use of data-informed decision making
- Increased Experiential Learning Events
- Increased College Campus Visits
- Gifted and Talented Learning Pathway (Leadership Focused)
  - Select students that need to be uniquely challenged
- Projects Learning Pathway
  - Topic Specific (0.25 Credits = 25 hours, etc)
- Accelerated Learning Pathway (Early Graduation)
  - Highly self-motivated students
- Concurrent Enrollment Options - Partnership with Minnesota State University, Mankato
  - Math - already approved
  - English - in process
- Post Secondary Education Options - Partnership with South Central College
- Student Clubs
  - Archery Club
  - 4-H Club
- Student Community Room
  - Pool Table
  - Foosball Table
  - Ping Pong Table

## **IX. World's Best Workforce**

### **District 4066: Kato Public Charter School World's Best Workforce Goals 2021 - 2022**

The World's Best Workforce Plan under *Statute 120b.11*, requires school districts to have an established process for reviewing curriculum, instruction, and student achievement in order to strive for the World's Best Workforce. This document is intended to serve as a foundational document aligning Kato Public Charter School with the standards of the World's Best Workforce. This document provides a roadmap for strategic management to incorporate performance measures, help adopt plans and budgets, formalize a District Advisory Committee and Site Team, and serve as a benchmark for the annual evaluation of the upcoming year's SMART goal attainment.

**Kato Public Charter School offers instruction to grades 6-12, leaving three of the five World’s Best Workforce Goals as the focus. These include:**

1. Closing the academic achievement gap among all racial and ethnic groups of students and between students living in poverty and students not living in poverty.
2. Having all students achieve college and career readiness before graduating from high school.
3. Having all students graduate from high school.

Kato Public Charter School is committed to meeting and exceeding these goals through innovative instruction, differentiated learning plans, individualized learning plans, and experiential learning.

**Annual Public WBWF Meeting**

Kato Public Charter School’s Annual WBWF meeting was held on October 1, 2022

**WBWF’Smart Goals and Results**

**Goal 1: Closing the Achievement Gaps**

Close the Achievement Gap(s) Between Student Groups

Goal	Result	Goal Status
<p>The school's proficiency rate exceeds the state average by up to 10 percentage points AND/OR school improves the proficiency rate by 10-20 percentage points from the baseline year on the MCAs in Math and Reading for students eligible for free-reduced lunch and for students receiving SPED services completing the math MCA.</p> <p>The school's proficiency rate exceeds the resident district average by up to 10 percentage points on the MCAs in Math and Reading for students eligible for free-reduced lunch and for students receiving SPED services completing the math MCA.</p> <p>The school cannot publicly report the MCA reading results of students receiving SPED services as the total students having completed the test is less than 10.</p>	<p>The school's combined proficiency rate of 0.00% is 18.32% lower than the state's proficiency of 18.32% on MCA math for FRL focus group.</p> <p>The school's combined proficiency rate of 7.14% is 24.67% lower than the state's proficiency of 31.81% on MCA reading for FRL focus group.</p> <p>The school's combined proficiency rate of 0.00% is 18.22% lower than the resident district's proficiency of 18.22% on MCA math for FRL focus group.</p> <p>The school's combined proficiency rate of 7.14% is 24.27% lower than the resident district's proficiency of 31.41% on MCA reading for FRL focus group.</p> <p>The school's combined proficiency rate of 9.09% is 14.34% lower than the state's proficiency of 23.44% on MCA</p>	<p>On Track (multi-year goal)</p>



	<p>reading for SPED focus group.</p> <p>The school's combined proficiency rate of 9.09% is 19.76% lower than the resident district's proficiency of 28.85% on MCA reading for SPED focus group.</p>	
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**Goal 2: All Students Achieve College and Career Readiness Before Graduating**

All Students Career- and College-Ready by Graduation

Goal	Result	Goal Status
<p>The school's proficiency rate exceeds the state average by up to 10 percentage points AND/OR school improves the proficiency rate by 10-20 percentage points from the baseline year on the MCAs in Math and Reading.</p> <p>The school's proficiency rate exceeds the resident district average by up to 10 percentage points on the MCAs in Math and Reading.</p> <p>60-79 percent of students make their individualized growth target based on most recent available NWEA MAP norms for math and reading.</p>	<p>The school's combined proficiency rate of 0.00% is 39.08% lower than the state's proficiency of 39.08% on MCA math.</p> <p>The school's combined proficiency rate of 11.11% is 39.70% lower than the state's proficiency of 50.81% on MCA reading.</p> <p>The school's combined proficiency rate of 0.00% is 36.49% lower than the resident district's proficiency of 36.49% on MCA math.</p> <p>The school's combined proficiency rate of 11.11% is 41.08% lower than the resident district's proficiency of 52.19% on MCA reading.</p> <p>The combined 2020-2025 NWEA results for math are 59.57%.</p> <p>The combined 2020-2025 NWEA results for reading are 68.18%.</p>	<p>On Track (multi-year goal)</p>

### Goal 3: All Students Graduate from High School

All Students Graduate

Goal	Result	Goal Status
<p>50-69 percent of students reach the college ready benchmark scores on the math and reading section of either the ACT or Accuplacer.</p> <p>50-69 percent of students reach their individualized credit accumulation benchmark.</p> <p>70-84 percent of students graduate on or before their GRAD year or graduate based on a timeline reasonable to the student's situation upon enrollment.</p> <p>60-79 percent of students who participate in the fall and spring show growth or proficiency on the KPCS Independent Learner Rubric.</p>	<p>The school's combined rate of students meeting the math ACT/Accuplacer benchmark is 3.03%.</p> <p>The school's combined rate of students meeting the reading ACT/Accuplacer benchmark is 23.33%.</p> <p>The school's combined individualized credit accumulation percent is 51.11%.</p> <p>The school's combined rate of students graduating on or before their GRAD year is 65.63%.</p> <p>The school's combined KPCS Independent Learner Percent is 65.85%.</p>	<p>On Track (multi-year goal)</p>

#### Reporting and Important Dates:

- **Reports:**
  - Annual Report Publishing (katopcs.org)
    - WBWF Summary Approved and Published Dec.15, 2022
    - WBWF Annual Report Approved and Published Dec. 15, 2022
  - Annual Meeting
    - October 1, 2022
  - Commissioner Report Submission
    - Submitted Dec. 15, 2022
  - Periodic Reports
    - Monthly and Quarterly Updates to Authorizer (NEO)
    - Monthly Updates to School Board on Academic Progress, MARA Framework, WBWF Plan, and Student Achievement