

The concept of an Adams County School District 50 (“District 50”) charter school was conceived by Kay May in 1995. After researching various school curriculums, Kay decided the Core Knowledge Curriculum would best serve this community. Early in 1996 Kay invited interested people to her home to begin the process of writing the Charter Application. The founders of the school are Kay May, Arv Jarasius, Danette Matthis, Candice Ruiz and Nico Adams. The name of the school, Crown Pointe Academy of Westminster, was derived from “Crown Pointe”, the name of the ridge at approximately 83<sup>rd</sup> and Lowell on the north side of Old Westminster. In the fall of 1996, the charter school concept was presented to Dr. Massarotti, District 50’s Superintendent. The district had recently started discussion with the City of Westminster to locate a charter school within Westminster’s redevelopment zone. Following negotiations with the District and City, a means to open the Facility, which had previously taught brick laying, house construction, and various other building trades. In exchange for the City of Westminster providing \$400,000 to remodel the facility, “of Westminster” was added to the school’s name, and enrollment. From within the development zone would be at least 33% of the total enrollment. A three-year charter contract was signed in 1997.

Mr. BJ Buchman started July, 1997 as Crown Pointe Academy’s first Director. Crown Pointe’s opening day was August 22, 1997. The school opened with 150 students in grade K-5. In 1998, Sixth Grade was added, and in 1997, Seventh Grade was added. The building was too small to accommodate the expanding student population. Kindergarten, First and Second Grades moved to rented space in the United Methodist Church at 76<sup>th</sup> and Lowell. The Building Corporation raised money through a bond issue, and an addition was put on the building in time for the next school year. Again, the City of Westminster participated in the project, giving money to help build the school’s gym. In exchange, the City has the availability of the gym in the evenings for city functions. In 2000, Eight Grade was added and the Primary Grades moved back to the Irving Street site. The Charter was renewed and signed in June of 2000, the Bylaws were changed to increase the number of elected and community Board Members. The school received the John J Irwin Distinguished Improvement Award from the State of Colorado in 2000.

In the spring of 2001, following a confidential meeting with the Board, Mr. Buchman resigned as Director. The turmoil that was created within the school caused a number of families to leave Crown Pointe. Dr. Nila Tritt started on July 1, 2001 as Crown Pointe’s second Director. Dr. Tritt served for one year and Mrs. Barbara Ridenour became Crown Pointe’s third director on July 1, 2002, the charter was renewed for a second time in June 2005, for an additional five years. Mr. Cliff Deffke was the school’s first Assistant Director in 2005. Dr. Allen Polson became Assistant Director in 2006. The School was recognized as a Gain-maker school in 2005 for exceptional improvement in student achievement in math for the past three years.

Expansion of the school’s enrollment began in the 2007-2008 school year. A temporary building was placed adjacent to the school to make space for the additional Kindergarten and First Grade

classes added in 2007. Ms. Erin Selleck became Assistant Director in 2008. That same year, a second temporary building was placed on the property to make space for an additional Second Grade. The school continued to grow and in 2009, the school purchased land to 86<sup>th</sup> and Federal in Westminster to build a larger facility. The school received a BB+ rating from FitchRatings, sold bonds and broke ground in the fall of 2009. In June of 2010, a third chart contract was signed with District 50 for an additional five years. The facility was completed in August 2010, and the first classes were held the following month. The district paid the balance on the 2000 bond issue and the original building became the District's property. During the 2010-2011 school year, the school became a John Irwin school of excellence for academic or Excellence and received the Governor's Distinguished Improvement Award for academic growth over three years. Both awards are given to the top 8% of schools in the state of Colorado.

An additional 25 sixth graders were introduced in the school, in 2011-2012. This was the first sixth grade with 50+ students to go through the middle school program. In February of 2012 Mrs. Ridenour resigned her position as director, effective March 2012. Mr. Michael Greek was brought in as interim Director for the rest of the 2011-2012 school year, while a search was conducted for a new Director. Mr. Keith Ouweneel was hired as the fourth Director, he started July 1 2012. The 2013-2014 was the first year that 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduated a double class. 2014-2015 was the first double class the go Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.