

**STONE CREEK
CHARTER**
GO BOLDLY

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For Immediate Release

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John Brendza Joins Stone Creek Charter as Headmaster
School Enters New Year with Strong Leadership and Solid Academic Program

Avon, Colorado ... Stone Creek Charter School announces that John Brendza has accepted a one-year position as Headmaster and will assume his duties immediately. A veteran with more than 25 years in the education system, Brendza has held multiple teaching and administrative positions within the Eagle County School District, most recently as the Superintendent.

School Board Member, Ron Wolfe who headed up the hiring committee, says, "We are excited to bring John on Board. He has the passion, presence and experience we need to quickly move Stone Creek Charter to a new level."

"We chose to hire a Headmaster, instead of a Principal," Wolfe continues, "As an independent school we feel like that title better reflects the role John will assume as the master teacher, CEO, visionary, and marketer. The school board will also continue its nationwide search for a long-term Headmaster, a position for which Brendza will be eligible should he choose to pursue it."

Brendza was honorably discharged from the Army before beginning a career in education in Eagle County in 1983. He taught environmental science and math at Minturn Middle School and also served as Dean of Students and Athletic Director. He moved into school administration in 1996, opening Berry Creek Middle School and serving as principal for

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six years. In 2001, Brendza became the Assistant Superintendent for the Eagle County School District, and he went on to become the Superintendent, a position he held until 2007.

Says Brendza, “When I began conversations with Stone Creek, I was struck by the passion of the Board, the dedication of the staff, and the commitment of the families. In three years, there has been minimal staff turnover which is tremendous. And everyone is excited about the academics. The Core Knowledge curriculum is unlike anything in the Valley. It’s rich and rigorous and according to test scores, it is producing high achievers.”

Brendza will begin his tenure at Stone Creek with a focus on three immediate goals: building relationships with staff, children and families, improving communication across the school and community, and enhancing staff development.

“Stone Creek’s half-day Wednesday schedule provides 12-hours a month for a Staff Development Program. This is a unique opportunity for cultivating teachers, capitalizing on their strengths and diversifying their instructional skills to meet the needs of each learner.”

One communication effort that will begin immediately is a series of informal “Meet and Greet” gatherings hosted by the Headmaster. **Two meetings are slated for next week – the first is Tuesday, August 25th at 2:00 PM and the second is Thursday, August 27th at 8:15 AM.** The meetings will take place at Stone Creek’s campus located in Avon, just next to Home Depot. Both are open to Stone Creek parents and others in the community who want to learn more about Core Knowledge, the centerpiece of the school’s curriculum, and the general direction of the school.

“Core Knowledge creates learners who are conversational and curious,” says Siri Reynolds, a teacher who has been at the school since its start, “Students are challenged with

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classic literature and world history beginning in Kindergarten and right through Middle School. They establish a strong foundation of knowledge, grade by grade.”

“Our children are engaged with material that is rich and culturally-diverse,” adds Jen Gutmann, who is part of the Upper School teaching team, “Our teachers love the creativity with which they can cover material. Parents are amazed by what their children are learning. And for the third year in a row, our test scores indicate the program is highly successful.”

Recent CSAP reports indicate that Stone Creek Charter continues to outperform many of the local district and state schools in the content areas tested:

- Most every grade level scored better than the state average in math.
- Third and Fourth graders scored in the high 90th percentile for proficient or advanced in math.
- Forty-seven percent of Seventh graders scored in the advanced category in math.
- Third through Eighth graders overall scored better than their Colorado peers in reading and writing.
- Not one Stone Creek Charter School student scored as Unsatisfactory in writing.

In addition to CSAPs, Stone Creek tracks student performance through NWEA-testing and other year-round assessments that help teachers monitor each student's growth. The school is utilizing Alpine Achievement, a student test score database, which allows teachers to create tailored instruction and helps students and parents set goals and review progress.

According to Gutmann, teachers are enthusiastic about working under the leadership of Brendza, “While our academic program is solidly on track, John will help define the future vision and direction of the school.”

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Founded in 2006, Stone Creek Charter School is a public school of choice for children in Eagle County in grades K through 8. The school offers a rigorous academic program and an engaging learning environment that challenges students to excel in academics, arts, music, foreign language, physical education and character development. Located in Avon just past Home Depot, the school has opening in some grades for the 2009-2010 school year and a lottery list in others. Interested parents are encouraged to apply now or add their children to the waiting list. To learn more, call 748-4535 or visit the website at www.stonecreekschool.org.

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