

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 commenced discussions with the City of Westminster to locate a charter school within Westminster’s redevelopment zone. Following negotiations between the District and City, an agreement was reached to open the Facility, a building on Irving Street which had previously been utilized for teaching various building trades, such as brick laying and house construction. In exchange for the City of Westminster providing \$400,000 to remodel the Facility, it was agreed that “of Westminster” would be added to the school’s name, and at least 33% of the school’s total enrollment would be drawn from the redevelopment zone. A three-year charter contract was signed in 1997.

Crown Pointe Academy of Westminster’s (“the school”) opening day was August 22, 1997, and Mr. BJ Buchman, started in July of 1997, as Crown Pointe Academy’s first Director. The school opened with 150 students in grade K-5. In 1998, Sixth Grade was added, and in 1997, Seventh Grade was added. Due to the increased enrollment, the building became 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 school’s Building Corporation raised money through a bond issue, and an addition was built onto the building in time for the next school year. Again, the City of Westminster participated in the building project, giving money to help build the school’s gym. In exchange for the construction money provided by the City, the school made the gym available to the City in the evenings for city functions. In 2000, Eighth Grade was added and the Primary Grades moved back to the Irving Street site. The Charter was renewed and signed in June of 2000, and the school’s Bylaws were amended 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 as Director for one year. Mrs. Barbara Ridenour became Crown Pointe’s third Director on July 1, 2002. The school’s charter contract was renewed for a second time in June 2005, for an additional five years. Mr. Cliff Deffke was the school’s first Assistant Director beginning 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.

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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 at 86th 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, the charter contract was renewed for a third time, and signed by District 50 for an additional five years. The facility was completed in August 2010, and the first classes were held in the new facility the following month. The District paid the balance of the construction costs by way of the bond measure passed in 2000, 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 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 enrolled in the school in 2011-2012 school year. 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, and he started July 1, 2012. The 2013-2014 was the first year that Eighth grade graduated two classes, and 2014-2015 was the first year that Kindergarten through Eighth grade all had two classes of students for each grade.

In December of 2014, after failed negotiations with the District on student funding and bond issues, the Academy Board elected to decline to enter into a renewal of the school's charter contract with the District as its Authorizer, and instead applied with the Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI) to become the school's new charter authorizer. At that time, the school requested release from the District, announcing the school's intention to seek authorization through CSI; the release was not granted. Thereafter, the Academy Board elected to move forward with the filing of a complaint at the State Board of Education, requesting that the State Board revoke District 50's Exclusive Chartering Authority. The school was successful at the hearing, and the State Board revoked the District's Exclusive Chartering Authority on June 10, 2015. The school's application to CSI was accepted on June 30, 2015. The District appealed the State Board's decision, but after negotiations, an agreement was reached whereby the District would withdraw its appeal, the State Board would reinstate the District's Exclusive Chartering Authority, and the school would be released from the District. The 2015-2016 school year was the school's first year as a CSI-chartered school.