The Academy for Global Citizenship:

- Is a Chicago Public Charter School with 400 Kindergarten through Seventh Grade students
- Is located in an industrial, underserved area on Chicago’s Southwest side
- Serves 91% minority and 80% low-income students
- Opened in August of 2008 with Kindergarten & First Grade
- Will add one grade level per year to create a continuum of K to 8 International Baccalaurate education within the Chicago Public School system

AGC develops mindful leaders who take action both now and in the future to positively impact their communities and the world beyond. In pursuit of this mission, AGC is committed to:

- Serving the whole child & facilitating collaboration within the community
- Modeling academic excellence & developing inquirers
- Cultivating international awareness & fostering environmental stewardship

The Academy for Global Citizenship has been:

- Invited to the White House by Michelle Obama to be recognized as the Midwest’s first and nation’s second “Healthier US School,” the USDA’s highest honor
- Designated as a National Green Ribbon School by US Education Secretary, Arne Duncan
- Asked to present to the United States Department of Education on scaling our innovation
- Authorized by the International Baccalaureate (IB) Organization as an IB World School
- Provided a Congressional Record from the US House of Representatives
- Commended by Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Governor Pat Quinn as a model for Chicago
- Recognized in an array of local, national and international media sources, including the New York Times, Good Morning America, NBC, ABC, Fox News, NPR, Atlantic Monthly, Forbes, Monocle, Chicago Tribune, Sun-Times, Univision, Forbes and many others

AGC is outperforming our nearest public school by over 32 percentage points in reading, 37 percentage points in math and 19 percentage points in science.

AGC is outperforming district averages on the standardized state test by over 5 percentage points and neighborhood public school averages by 11 percentage points.

AGC published a Sustainable Schools Handbook that has been utilized by schools locally, nationally, and across the globe.

AGC’s team members have presented at over 70 conferences, teacher trainings and TED events, from as far as Uganda, Brazil, Colombia, Germany and Japan.
The Academy for Global Citizenship (AGC) is an innovative Chicago Public Charter School, located on the underserved Southwest side of Chicago. We serve a student body that is ethnically and culturally diverse, as 75% of our students come from the immediate neighborhood, representing primarily Hispanic, Polish and African American heritages. 91% of our students are ethnic minorities, 80% come from low-income families and 33% are English language learners and 20% are receiving special education services.

In pursuit of its mission to empower all students to positively impact the community and world beyond, AGC is committed to: serving the whole child, modeling academic excellence, developing inquirers, cultivating international awareness, fostering healthy and sustainable lifestyles, and facilitating collaboration within the community.

In a time when there’s a need for strong voices of change in the public square, AGC is empowering the next generation of young community leaders. Each year we admit fifty new students, offering them an experience that is profoundly unique among publicly funded educational programs. These future leaders of social, economic, environmental and political change are provided rich opportunities for academic growth, while developing an understanding of what it means to play an integral role in our global society. Our children are being prepared to steward our world into the future.

Environmental Sustainability Education is embedded within our curriculum, guides our daily practices, and is glowingly evident throughout our school culture. We believe that this focus will help our students to make positive decisions that benefit the planet, future generations, and them. Nutritionally balanced organic meals, daily yoga, gardening, wellness instruction and ecologically sustainable practices throughout the school encourage learners to develop healthy and sustainable lifestyles for themselves. Within each of our students, we strive to instill a positive responsibility based relationship with wellness and the environment through the implementation of such practices as composting, recycling and a walking school bus initiative.

Our innovative and holistic approach to education aims to redefine the role of a school. From the rigorous core education to sustainable operations, AGC engages its students in a learning style that traverses far beyond the classroom. Math and science are intertwined with growing an organic garden or tracking the efficiency of our solar panels, language arts and literacy are incorporated as the students tend to their schoolyard chickens, and health and wellness lessons are lived as students walk to school and enjoy AGC’s natural and balanced breakfast and lunch.

Fundamental to its values, AGC will also be a replicable model that improves the quality of life, inspires learning, and cultivates leadership from within. At AGC, a sustainable life is one filled with mental agility, physical health, and unlimited vision.

All students at the Academy for Global Citizenship are held to the rigorous standards of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme, a renowned curricular framework designed to prepare students to thrive in a global society. Children are exposed to formative concepts such as accountability, citizenship, and stewardship from the moment they enter our doors, evoking within them a new level personal and communal responsibility. With the IB program as our curricular foundation, 84% of AGC’s met or exceeded literacy standards during the 2012 testing cycle. In addition, 20% of AGC’s Third Grade students were reading a full year above their grade level last year and 92% of third grade students met or exceeding grade level expectations in Math. Comparatively, the average number of students meeting or exceeding literacy standards in five surrounding neighborhood schools is 63% and our closest neighborhood school had only 42% of students at or above grade level in Math. After a drastic shift in state testing in 2013, AGC students are still outperforming the district by 5 percentage points and our closest neighborhood school by over 30 percentage points. We are very proud of these successes.

Our students, grades K-7 are currently split between two facilities a few blocks away from each other across a major intersection. Many of our families have children in both buildings. We are quickly running out of room in our current facilities and struggling to meet the demand, as we have 10 times as many applicants as available spots and are adding a grade level every year. In the past four years we have grown out of two school buildings putting strain on our families, staff and our budget.

AGC is striving to produce a replicable model for learning in the 21st century, therefore we designed a school building that will not only grow with us, but will serve as a prototype that will shift global communities towards a system of learning that educates our next generation to excel in a socioeconomic environment that depends on the state of our planet. Our net-positive campus will create more energy than it uses in a year and act as a “third teacher” in sustainability education for our students as well as their families and the surrounding community. The net-positive campus will not only save money—as energy costs for U.S. schools typically outweigh exceed those for books and technology combined—but will be a force for economic growth in the community, featuring a sustainable business incubator, at least 3 acres of organic farmland and orchards and a community center with early childhood education facilities.
SARAH ELIZABETH IPPEL  
Founder & Executive Director

When she was 23 years old, Sarah Elizabeth Ippel rode her bicycle to the Board of Education with a simple request: to *reimagine what is possible* in public education today. Three years later, in 2008, the Academy for Global Citizenship opened in a former dental tool factory on the city’s underserved Southwest side where Sarah Elizabeth serves as its Founder and Executive Director. A Chicago Public Elementary School on a global mission, AGC is developing the next generation of critical thinkers and mindful leaders who take action to positively impact their communities and the world beyond.

In less than five years, the Academy for Global Citizenship has become recognized across the globe for its model green school initiatives combined with unprecedented academic results, and is currently developing the first net-positive energy prototype campus on an urban farm. As an international learning laboratory and incubator of scalable innovation, AGC is dedicated to igniting an educational movement, with an unwavering vision to reach 20 million students by 2020.

Sarah Elizabeth’s life mission is to broaden the world’s assumptions about the purpose of education. Since earning a Masters of Philosophy from the University of Cambridge in England, she has traveled to over 80 different countries across 6 continents, extensively immersing herself in educational philosophies and world languages, as well as creating international alliances that have informed the design and culture of the Academy for Global Citizenship. In addition to studying the application of the International Baccalaureate framework in various cultural contexts across the globe, her earlier initiatives included the development and implementation of globally cooperative literacy programs for orphan children in northern Tanzania. Sarah Elizabeth has further completed studies in Nonprofit Management at Harvard Business School.

During her five-year term as Vice President of Education on the governing board of the United Nations Association, Sarah Elizabeth fostered broader implementation of The Growing Connection, an organic gardening initiative established to cross-culturally connect children and educators across continents through technology. She has also served on the Chicago Chapter of the United States Green Building Council Green Schools Advocacy Committee, Chicago Public Schools’ Environmental Action Plan Taskforce, and is an active founding member of Conservation International’s Generation Conservation. Sarah Elizabeth’s additional leadership and civic contributions have also included executive board memberships with Northwestern Memorial Hospital and the Art Institute of Chicago.

Sarah Elizabeth was selected as a United States Delegate to Terra Madre in 2010, where she met with representatives from over 60 nations to discuss the sustainability of our local and global food systems. In 2011, she was named one of Monocle’s Top 20 International Pioneers in Education alongside Michelle Rhee, and visited the White House to receive a national award from Michelle Obama. In 2012 and 2013, Sarah Elizabeth was appointed as one of 100 Delegates from 20 countries across the globe who assembled for the G8 Young Global Leaders Summit, preparing recommendations for a communiqué that was presented to President Obama and the U.S. Department of State. In 2013, Sarah Elizabeth was recognized by Forbes as one of the nation’s “top five game changers in education”, was the recipient of the GOOD 100 list of “people pushing the world forward through doing” and was selected by the Council on Global Affairs as an Emerging Leader Fellow. When she is not traveling around the world, giving TED talks and sharing the Academy for Global Citizenship’s vision for systemic change, Sarah Elizabeth enjoys working on her plans to build a net-positive energy home in Chicago.
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