



Arches ACADEMY



**INTERACTIVE
LEARNING
EMPOWERING KIDS**



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THE ARCH – an arch's beauty and strength are the result of carefully distributed loads satisfying natural laws and scientific principles; its intricacy and artistry are built on solid foundations.

At Arches Academy, we work together to create a balanced environment where each student can discover these foundational principles for themselves, leading them to erect personal monuments of great achievement.



Introduction



DESIGN -

The arch can be intentional, a carefully engineered structure of calculated form and deliberate assembly.



Arches Academy is an independent private school, formed in June 2012 by licensed professional teachers who had been teaching and sculpting their curriculum together for over 20 years. We welcome a student body comprised of preschool through ninth graders, from various Utah communities and many countries of the world, as well as from a wide spectrum of socio-economic backgrounds. This diversity of talents, perspectives, cultures, and voices are integral to the Arches Academy experience; it defines the student ecology from which our teachers cultivate and nurture unparalleled student growth and creative achievement.

We are a student-focused, teacher-managed school *where interactive learning empowers kids*. At Arches, we understand that real-life intriguing experiences, fostered by instructors who are masters of their craft, can never be replaced by mindless drill or Internet babysitting because *the teacher makes the difference*. Our students are nurtured through their most formative years through interactions with encouraging teachers, supportive peers, intriguing material, and fascinating educational landscapes—both in and out of the classroom. Each student participates fully in our academically solid, well-rounded liberal arts curriculum in Math, Science,

Humanities, and the Arts. Our teachers integrate cutting-edge technologies, proven educational programs, local opportunities, parental expertise, and student interests to construct and implement our unique curriculum: at Arches, we're *inspiring students to climb to new heights*.

What makes Arches Academy different from other schools? It's simple:

Carefully Crafted Student Body

- Small Class Sizes
- Global Perspective
- Diversity and Harmony

Uniquely Constructed Learning Experiences

- Interactive Learning
- Strong, Balanced Curriculum
- Leadership Development

Expert, Unfettered Teachers

- Teacher Managed, Student Centered
- Empowered, Dedicated, Involved
- Experts in their Field



Carefully Crafted STUDENT BODY

Populating a school or classroom should not be left to chance. However, public and charter schools are limited in their ability to select and control their student body. As a result, these schools that begin with a good reputation often become magnets for parents looking for a solution for their struggling child. Over time, these dynamics can drive serious students and teachers away, leaving the school to languish in the afterglow of its former reputation.

Arches Academy maintains its independence as a private school precisely to avoid these problems and maintain control over, among other things, its student body. Every year we carefully consider applications and accept only those students who meet set standards and who are assets to the student body in their own unique ways. This careful crafting, which includes maintaining small class sizes, admitting a percentage of qualified international students, and awarding financial aid to enable rich student diversity, is critical for Arches to create its ideal learning environment and achieve its educational mission.

SMALL CLASS SIZES

Some parents don't realize the real dangers of over-loaded teachers and large class sizes that weigh down our public and charter schools. As the number of students grows beyond twenty, the ability of even the best teachers to manage their classes is increasingly at the mercy of unruly and difficult students. These students make it more difficult for a teacher to attract and maintain the group's attention, or to be more creative in their teaching approach. The loss of learning time can be staggering.

Let's do the math: If, in a 40 minute lesson, it takes 10 minutes to settle down instead of a few minutes, and various disruptions waste another 5-8 minutes, students lose about 25-33% of the learning time. When this happens day after day, a child effectively loses the equivalent of 1 educational year every three to four years.

In addition to this loss of learning time, serious, well-behaved students can and do become invisible. When so much of a teacher's energy is spent on classroom management, even the best teachers aren't able to really understand the individual needs of their students. At best, teachers in large classrooms hope to "get through" a curriculum or "cover" material. The idea of deeply understanding each student—knowing their interests, how they are inspired, where they are challenged, how they think and make sense of their world, and how to help each one discover their own unique voice—is simply not feasible.

Why small class sizes? Because every child matters.

A school should nurture a climate in which the worth of each individual is continually affirmed, and in which students can have meaningful experiences in a stimulating environment where they feel safe, valued, inspired, and challenged.

"Arches Academy is a fabulous school! The teachers truly love the children. Small classrooms, parent input, excellent curriculum!"

~ Westberg Family





“Teachers at Arches partner with the students and their parents to make sure that each child’s needs are individually addressed.”

~ Arches Parent

According to the Utah State Office of Education, the average elementary school class size in 2013 was 25 students per class. For secondary courses like language arts, science, and math, the average class size was 30 students per class. (See “Statewide Report 2012-2013” at www.schools.utah.gov/data/Reports/Class-Size.aspx.) At Arches Academy, our average class size in 2015 was 13 students per class.

In our sensibly sized classes, students receive individualized attention and experiences that challenge each one based on their specific needs. Our safe and nurturing environment empowers students to take new steps to excel academically, socially, and emotionally. Their success is also centered on the combination of three essential elements:

- **The child’s positive attitude, effort, and ability;**
- **Support and involvement of home and community, and**
- **A nurturing, encouraging, creative teacher dedicated to reaching each individual.**

Due to our small, child-focused classrooms we are better able to build and strengthen each of these elements to impact a child’s education in powerful and positive ways.

“The teachers at Arches Academy work incredibly hard and are extremely dedicated. They genuinely care about each of the students and their families. The classes are small and the students get more one-on-one attention than anywhere else.”

~ Arches Parent

Each student is valued as a unique individual whose mental, physical, and emotional capabilities and needs underscore daily learning and overall success.

Our focus on each child results in strong individuals who are:

- **Thoughtful, self-motivated, and confident;**
- **Problem solvers and team players;**
- **Global citizens;**
- **Respectful and cooperative;**
- **Kind, accepting, and inclusive;**
- **Cheerful and well-rounded;**
- **Responsible, organized, and hard working;**
- **Resilient and proactive;**
- **Inspirational leaders;**
- **Creative, imaginative, inventive; and**
- **Focused and positive about learning.**

“Our family loves Arches Academy and would never consider putting our kids anywhere else. The close personal relationships that our daughters have with each of their teachers and the administration is so unique and so valuable. It has done so much for their confidence and their ability to learn.”

Enrolling in Arches Academy is the best thing we ever did for our kids! We genuinely feel like we are a part of an academic family who truly cares about each other. In a world where most kids are trying to figure out where they belong, there is nothing more important than that.”

~ Brian & Leslie Gallacher, Parents



LIGHT – The arch can act as windows, bringing light where there is darkness.





CULTURE - The arch is a gateway to appreciating both personal heritage and exotic cultures.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE
SMALL, BUT NOT SMALL-MINDED

Nothing says Utah more than Delicate Arch National Monument. Arches Academy is proud of its Utah heritage and to represent the best in a Utah education.

One of the most interesting aspects of Utah is its small-town feel among a surprisingly internationally-oriented people. Arches Academy works to preserve this character in its education by nurturing a global perspective among its students.

Arches Academy is a SEVIS certified school (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) legally authorized to issue I-20 documents enabling foreign nationals to obtain student visas. We have welcomed students from Korea, Japan, China, Brazil, Australia, Germany, and the United Kingdom. Our carefully selected student body helps create an exchange of cultures, languages, and philosophies.

The core curriculum at Arches is designed with an eye to global understanding, including activities like a Geography Bee, international music and art appreciation, environmental awareness and global responsibility, current events, fundraising for Operation Smile and other global outreach programs, etc. Our Middle School program features Model United Nations, a class where students take on a foreign country persona and compete with other teams to solve real world problems using their understanding of geography and current events. Students also learn a foreign language and participate in a weekly

countries and cultures "Round Table" class, where students from the different foreign language classes, including ESL, teach the rest of the student body about their country of focus or origin. Arches Academy graduates leave with a love and respect of global cultures balanced with a pride for their own local heritage.

"Hi, my name is Luiza, I'm Brazilian, and I'm 12... I had the privilege of studying in the USA, at Arches Academy! I had so much fun! My teachers are AMAZING, and my friends... WOW, my friends were VERY NICE TO ME! I miss the whole school... I had a good time learning English and other subjects at Arches Academy! An AWESOME THING: we had every week a SKIING AND SNOWBOARDING CLASS! It was REALLY COOL! Now I can snowboard and so many other new things! Thanks a LOT Mrs. Warnick for giving me this wonderful experience of studying at Arches Academy!"



VIEWPOINT - The arch is a window, framing stunning views of the world beyond.





DIVERSITY & HARMONY

At Arches, diversity is not a government mandate or a token objective. We deeply believe in the power of the individuality of each student, and we seek an environment where these differences play off each other to create a greater whole.

Just as harmonizing demands resonance among various notes, a comprehensive education requires diversity beyond ethnicity and culture.

We value socioeconomic diversity and offer financial and merit based scholarships

to allow students from all walks of life to experience the personal growth and intellectual achievement that only Arches can bring.

The power of a private school to carefully craft its student body not only allows Arches to maintain sensible class sizes, but it also brings a unique emphasis on global perspective with the integration of international students and the protection of real diversity—not merely for diversity's sake, but as a precursor to enabling each student to experience genuine harmony as part of their educational journey.



CAMARADERIE –

The arch reminds us that each piece is important.



"My son feels loved, respected, and needed."

~ Arches Parent



Uniquely Constructed

LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Arches Academy creates uniquely crafted learning activities that offer students an educational experience like no other. A number of factors enable us to do this, including sensible class sizes, curricular freedom from state mandates, and creative professional teachers.

Some private schools use similar flexibility to drive a particular religiously oriented agenda to train their students. At Arches, we believe that religious education is so important and personal that it should never be separated from the home and family. As a result, we seek to create an environment that can be an effective complement to such home education, a place where students from a variety of religious and non-religious backgrounds will feel safe and respected in their religious and non-religious expression.

This intimate and safe environment enables a culture of intellectual curiosity and wonder that is the life-breath of Arches. With it, our proficient teachers are able to guide students through our strong, balanced curriculum, including a special focus on leadership development, all based on our unique perspective of education driven by interactive learning.

INTERACTIVE LEARNING

At Arches, worksheets or the Internet will never babysit your student. Here they will search for their own fossils at Dinosaur National Park, reenact the Battle of Gettysburg on the school green, snorkel Catalina Island to explore marine ecology, walk the Boston Freedom Trail to better understand our country's beginnings, explore how secret codes are created and use them to find information and treasure, and perform their favorite book as a self-written and self-directed play.

"Arches makes learning fun."

~ Arches Parent



"The teachers here care enough to make sure the children are really engaged and learning. The experiences they have both in the classroom and out in the world are memorable and fun."

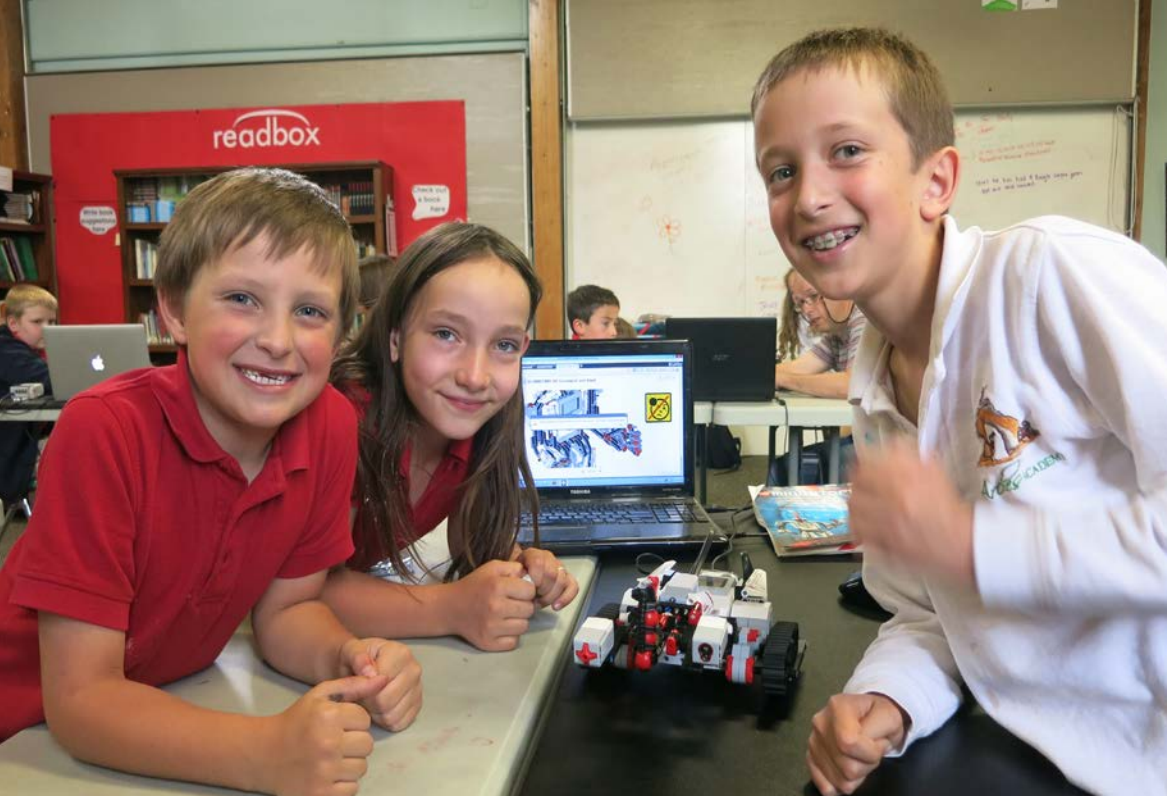
~ Christopher Liechty, Parent

We believe that students learn best through real-life, intriguing experiences. With our manageable-sized student body, we are able to go on many fieldtrips, several of which are chaperoned overnight trips to exciting locations, or even out of state to broader educational landscapes. Our fieldtrips, whether local or more exotic, are always related to the students' current studies and projects, and are designed to provide hands-on, live experiences that enhance and solidify their learning.

We also believe that students are more motivated and thrive when they are given ownership of their education. Arches provides ample opportunities for students to shape their schooling by choosing from generous course offerings, electives, and our unique "mini courses" created specifically around students' interests. In these dynamic courses, students create their own projects and set goals for themselves with parental and teacher support.

MINI COURSES:

At Arches Academy, teachers work closely with students to personalize learning. One way we customize is through crafting unique mini-courses that inspire students and nurture their intrinsic curiosity. These courses are created using the results from student interest surveys, and are taught by teachers, parent experts, or other specialists. Courses usually run for 4-6 weeks, with several courses being offered at once. Students choose between the different courses to shape their own learning experiences. Topics are as diverse as our students, ranging from mummies, rock band performance, weaving, and cooking, to survival skills, archery, explorations in science/technology/engineering/math, skiing, architecture, and more.



INTRICACY-
 Arches can form
 a labyrinth of
 possibilities.

Mini-courses are not just about inspiring student interests. They also become vehicles for expert teachers to integrate important and often difficult educational ideas into a student's worldview. For example:

- **Archery** isn't just learning a sport, it also tells a story about potential and kinetic energy, aerodynamics, and an age of chivalry and myths.
- **Spies and Codes** is more than hide-and-go-seek and cipher games; it also connects to the mathematics of cryptography, the chemistry of invisible ink, and a rich history, dating before the ancient Greeks.

In an Arches mini-course, students enjoy topics of particular interest to them, while also gaining additional knowledge in core subjects like math, science, history, and literature.

GIFTED AND TALENTED MODEL:

At Arches, we've observed that every student is equipped with innate learning strategies and talents. We recognize, train, and enhance these talents in order to empower students to achieve their highest potential in core academic subjects and beyond.

We follow the gifted and talented model with every student, not just a few who "test in." This means that all students are encouraged to follow their passions and pursue projects that excite them, even topics that go above and beyond a state curriculum. These projects are often team endeavors and are always nurtured by the coaching and guidance of a capable teacher.

The G&T approach enables students to participate in a wide range of enrichment activities. Many activities are teacher-selected and directed, chosen carefully to expose students to a wide variety of disciplines, topics, occupations, hobbies, persons, places, and events that would not ordinarily be included in the regular curriculum. Teachers invite guest speakers, travel on many fieldtrips, and integrate films, plays and other special performances. These activities are designed to spark interests that lead to *student-selected* learning and projects.



NATURAL - An
 arch can be created
 from natural elements,
 revealing innate
 strengths and abilities
 to celebrate and
 nurture.





ADVENTURE -

The arch entices thrilling adventures into the unknown.

Students interested in delving into topics not offered as electives are encouraged to do so. These *student-directed* projects are primarily all their own, with only as much teacher involvement as the student prefers. These projects are individualized, in-depth studies, connected to and integrated with core subjects.

"Arches Academy provides a well rounded education, focusing not just on academics but on providing opportunities for creative learning as well. Our kids have had the opportunity to go on some amazing field trips where they have had tremendous hands on learning experiences that will last a lifetime."

~ Gallacher Family

"We love this school! My son needed a small class size and an education that encourages creativity and independent thinking. He felt stifled and forgotten in public schools. They also have a strong emphasis on academics. He is happier and more engaged than ever before. I don't worry when he is there because I know the teachers are caring and attentive and the kids are respected and respectful!"

~ Melissa Clark, Parent



CURIOSITY -

An arch inspires curiosity, inviting us to take the next step down an intriguing path.



STRONG, BALANCED CURRICULUM

At Arches Academy, students don't fit the programs—we carefully create our programs to best fit our students. We use state core curriculum as a springboard, rather than a ceiling of what to accomplish in any given school year, teaching above and beyond minimum or mediocre, rigid standards. At Arches, student learning is not restricted or shaped by a standardized test; we never spend time “teaching to the test” as often happens in some schools. Rather, our assessment mechanisms zero-in on students' current academic levels and give teachers valuable feedback they use to individualize the design of learning experiences and ensure progress. Our Solid Core paired with rich elective offerings and targeted assessment delivers a balanced learning experience for well-rounded, well-educated graduates; students who are prepared for higher education and hold a lifelong thirst for learning.

SOLID CORE

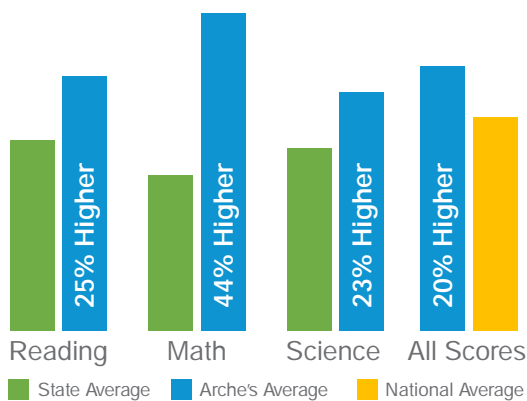
We have high expectations for students to develop and apply themselves in five core areas, and provide a strong support system for their success in these areas.

- English Language
- Mathematical Thinking And Problem Solving
- Historical Awareness
- Science Knowledge And Reasoning

We also employ a unique leveling approach to determine a student's placement in core subjects rather than just their birth date alone. We believe every student has the right to learn at their own level, so we assess to find out what students already know and what they are ready to learn next. During our morning core subject periods, students attend different math and language arts levels based on their assessed ability.

As students engage our unique core curriculum, they develop critical thinking skills and demonstrate competencies in the key areas of listening, speaking, reading, writing, mathematical foundations, and computational thinking. Our teachers foster curiosity and a balanced intellectual appetite in each of these subject areas. Our success is evident in part by our test scores.

Our 8th Grade Test Scores are:



ETERNITY – The arch can portray the infinite, reminding us that learning is a lifelong, timeless pursuit.

“Arches Academy does big things in a small environment. This is just what my daughter needed after some mediocre years at our neighborhood school. Large class sizes, combined with her mostly agreeable personality, created an environment where she could quietly slip past the notice of well-intentioned, but overwhelmed teachers. We needed some tough love and some focused attention on both her strengths and weaknesses. The teachers and administrators at Arches have been able to provide that attention.”

~Arches 6th grade Parent



ACHIEVEMENT

– The arch is a monument, marking great moments of personal success.



ENGLISH AND BALANCED LITERACY

Students in PK-5 learn to read, write, spell, speak, listen, and create through our Balanced Literacy program. Our literacy teachers truly love reading and carefully select books that will capture the attention of their students and inspire a genuine appreciation for great literature. Students learn through song, rhymes, reader's theater, poetry, technology, class games, interactive centers, captivating read-alouds, and daily reading and writing instruction tailored to each student's level. Students receive a high level of personalized support, enabling them to quickly progress to more advanced levels of reading and literacy development.

Middle School English Core and Communications classes provide the components necessary for students to become masters of written and oral communication. History, science, and current events are integrated into their reading and writing course work. Students are able to think deeply about literature themes in their book groups. Lively discussion and debate are a norm in our literature circles, where everyone participates and contributes to the conversation. Students create reports and other types of presentations to express their thoughts and knowledge of the topics they've engaged.

Arches Academy students are great readers and writers! Arches has consistently been a top reading school in the Utah Jazz Read-a-thon, and students love the rewards: a school visit from a Jazz basketball player, a television and newspaper spotlight, and the wall-size, student-created graph depicting their total minutes read. We also host an annual Writing Rally featuring visits from well-known Utah authors and writing workshops throughout the rally week. Each student then applies their newly honed skills to create their own book! Books are published by a professional printer and shared in an author signing and book sharing event.





WORLD CLASS MATHEMATICS

The Founders of Arches knew that in order to create a world-class school, they needed the best math program in the world. As they examined over a decades' worth of research with the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), one of the largest world-wide studies evaluating math programs, they found that Singapore consistently ranked highest across the grades. They looked deeper at the Singapore math curriculum, and discovered the secret to being ranked #1:

Singapore Math focuses on mastery, not memorization. Usually you can divide students into two groups: those who "get" math, and those who "don't." Singapore Math teaches visualization strategies that people who "get" math naturally possess, to the students who "don't," leveling the playing field and giving all students the tools to think like a mathematician. The sequence of topics in Singapore math has also been carefully constructed, based upon child development theory, to include a pictorial approach which is often missing in other programs. Students are able to solidify their understanding as they visualize and then draw math concepts as a representative picture.

"One of my favorite things about Arches is their Singapore math curriculum. It focuses on learning math concepts in a three-step process: concrete, pictorial, and abstract. Concepts are learned on a much deeper level. My daughter's "math sense" has improved dramatically. She can solve problems she hasn't seen before because she can dissect them and figure out what they are really asking. I am grateful for the dedicated teachers and administrators at Arches for helping with this transformation. We look forward to another year of growth, friends, and fun at Arches."

~ 6th Grade Parent at Arches

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

History is not a dead, read-about-it-in-a-textbook kind of subject at Arches Academy. Rather, it comes alive for students as they re-enact a Civil War battle on the school green, transform their classroom into a native American village, create Viking helmets and shields, or set foot on actual sites which our forefathers walked. Students write historical fiction, keep a journal as a persona from a historical period, and portray their knowledge through wax museums or self-written plays. We use the Core Knowledge program to guide the curriculum for our history and geography classes, and teachers enrich the curriculum by integrating current events, global issues, fieldtrips, and literature and art from time periods and areas of the world for each unit they embark upon.

SCIENCE

Hands-on learning and understanding processes is the key to our strong Science curriculum. The Core Knowledge content is enhanced with live demonstrations, active student experiments, building of models, and fieldtrips to intriguing educational landscapes such as the planetarium, aquarium, BYU Bean museum, rock quarry, and more. Our science teachers are experts in their field and employ a variety of teaching methods, activities, and scientific materials to engage student attention, inspire their curiosity, and increase their desire to ask questions and seek answers. Students learn the Scientific Method and apply each step as they participate in our annual Science Fair. The majority of our students become so jazzed about the sciences they opt to take the additional enrichment offerings in the areas of STEAM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics. Robotics, Advanced Technology, Math competitions, regional science fairs, Entrepreneurs, and 3-D printing are a few classes and options available for our aspiring young minds.

HISTORICAL

– An arch can provide lessons from our past and our predecessors, giving insight and vision that can affect our future.



RHYTHM

– The arch can demonstrate its own pattern, revealing the splendor of its unique pace and tempo.



ART – The arch is a magnificent work of creative beauty.



RICH ELECTIVE OFFERINGS

Our rigorous core academic offerings are enhanced with specialty classes that are often not offered in other schools. At Arches, students can choose from a variety of elective offerings that enhance students' learning experiences:

- **Foreign Languages; Language Fairs, Holiday Sing-a-long, and "Countries and Cultures" assemblies**
- **Music; concerts & performances, Madrigal Choir, and music tech**
- **Art; Chalk the Block, Arbor Day poster contest, and Fine Arts Showcase**
- **Drama; annual, all-school musical**
- **Physical Education**
- **Dance, Yoga, Karate**
- **Extracurricular activities and sports**
- **Middle School electives:**
 - **Student Government**
 - **Communications—"people skills" and public speaking**
 - **Entrepreneurs**
 - **Advanced Technology**
 - **Science/Technology/Engineering/Math explorations**
 - **Advanced Art**
 - **Madrigal Choir**
 - **Photography/Yearbook**

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Students have many opportunities to engage in learning foreign languages and broadening their global perspective. Each student is able to choose between French, Spanish, or German, with our International students enrolled in English (ESL). Classes are leveled with mixed age groupings and meet 2-4 times per week. We integrate the use of technology to enhance and personalize learning.

Our unique Countries and Cultures "Round Table" assemblies encourage cultural exchange and appreciation. In these assemblies, students in Language Classes rotate the opportunity to share what they've learned with their peers through games, activities, food, music, current issues, history, and holidays from countries around the world. Students apply and develop their leadership skills as they teach other students, and learners gain more knowledge, appreciation and respect for the diverse beauty of our world's population.

FINE ARTS: MUSIC, ART, AND DRAMA

Arches Academy understands the brain balancing power of integrating Fine Arts classes into the required course load for students. Research shows that students who study the fine arts are 4 times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement in math, reading, and science and 3 times more likely to be awarded for school attendance. New brain research shows that not only does a Fine Arts education improve skills in math and reading, but it promotes creativity, social development, personality adjustment, and self-worth.

Our Fine Arts classes include General Music, Drama, Dance, and Art Fundamentals, as well as several other electives. Students learn about great artists from around the world, and experience performing and showcasing their own masterpieces as well. All Arches students participate yearly in a formal choral concert, a show choir style performance, a national art contest, an art museum display, and a musical theater production directed by professionals from the Scera Theater.

We take pride in our Fine Arts Faculty who are experts in their field. Their passion for the arts is contagious, and students naturally develop art appreciation as they are inspired by these professional teachers. As evidence of their high caliber teaching, our students consistently win national and regional art, theater, and music competitions.

Field Trips also expand our students' appreciation for the Fine Arts. Students have attended orchestra performances at Abravanel Hall, participated in a state-wide choral performance, toured art museums, and visited local university performances to inspire them beyond the walls of the classroom. Students leave Arches well-rounded, with an impressive fine arts resume.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION, DANCE, YOGA, KARATE

We offer a physical education program that focuses on lifetime fitness and wellness and that promotes creativity, self-discipline and accountability. We use a variety of tactics including the following:

- Creative movement
- Cooperative learning—"team-work"
- Sports and other competitive games—students learn good sportsmanship and how to cheer others' efforts in positive ways
- Collaborative group efforts (students design and implement their own activities and ultimately teach the entire group)
- Independent work to develop personal physical skills
- Fitness at home (journals, calculating nutrition, etc.)

EXTRACURRICULAR SPORTS

Arches Academy's main purpose in running a sports program is to provide additional opportunities for building team-work and synergy and to further develop individual athletic skills. Our coaches implement the following mottos to accomplish our vision:

- *"We win as a team, we lose as a team."* The teammates support each other 100%. In the fall of 2015, the middle school volleyball team consisted of both experienced and new students. It was essential for each player to find ways to build another's self-confidence as they learned and grew together as a team.

- *"The way you practice is the way you'll play in a game."* Students learn quickly of the need to focus and work hard during practice—that 100% dedication during practice leads to triumphs when it matters most. These lessons translate into other facets of students' lives.
- *"How you play matters more than if you win."* Students know that their success isn't only determined by the final score; rather it is about giving their all. Success means being better today than yesterday, not simply the number of victories.
- *"Visualize yourself succeeding."* As students imagine themselves succeeding rather than falling short, they gain confidence and self-mastery resulting in more frequent and larger achievements.



SYNERGY -

The arch is created when two sides come together, achieving a common goal neither can reach alone.

"I think our team made it to state this year because the students really did internalize these values. They truly were a team in every sense of the word. Criticism started to disappear as they realized they were better together than they were apart. They worked hard during practice and were so happy for the successes of their teammates. We worked on visualization and focus. We even invented a word that we used often 'Communifustle'—a combination of communication, focus, and hustle. I don't think we would have had as much success if they had not believed in themselves as much as they did. We knew we could make it to state and so we made it happen—it was a great example of beginning with the end in mind."

~ McKinlee Covey, Middle School Volleyball Coach 2015



The Leader in Me™
great happens here



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The 'Leader in Me' program, powered by Franklin-Covey, is a dynamic program devoted to character development. Incorporating the proven principle-based 7 Habits, this program helps students develop positive character traits and to act as leaders in their school, homes, and communities. Students learn to apply the 7 Habits in their everyday lives, and are able to see their own powerful potential as they do so. Arches Academy utilizes this superior program to provide clear and easy-to-use tools that help shape our student's habits and attitudes on a personal level, and their abilities to interact and work successfully on a social level.

Students have many opportunities to utilize this leadership training daily. They take initiative in planning group projects, class activities, fundraising for various causes, and more. They see a need for a cool club and create it, or recognize the value of team sports and jump in to participate, and invite others to do the same. They make proactive choices to clean up an area that needs attention, to help a fellow student out of a difficult situation, to take action when they see it is needed. Our student leaders recognize those everyday moments when they can step up and be an example and that being a leader doesn't just mean being a president or CEO. These ideas promote an incredibly positive environment at our school as they seek to create 'win-win' solutions, understand each other, and promote synergy.

"As we teach these principles, we are creating a generation of leaders, one child at a time."

(Dr. Stephen R. Covey)
~ Arches Grandparent

"Arches has given my child a new interest in learning, where he had given up in the ordinary public school. At Arches his confidence has grown, increasing his desire to participate and succeed."

"Arches is an amazing school. It has helped our daughter gain a feeling of confidence, and offers her a rich experience that prepares her for the future, in whatever she decides to do. The teachers work with each student according to his/her needs. We love Arches!"

~ Cristina del Valle, Parent



DIRECTION – The Arch marks the way, defining a route of progress.



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

At Model United Nations (MUN), students in 6th grade and above have the opportunity to ponder global issues and possible solutions. MUN participants study a specific world problem, write proposals with potential solutions, represent a country in the UN, and then debate with other country representatives to work towards resolutions. Students step into the shoes of world leaders as they examine real global problems, and from this deeply interactive experience, learn about compromise, team-work, listening, understanding, and empathy.



“Great kids. Great school. This school has made such a difference for my son.”

~ Kerry Shaw, Parent



“Arches has empowered my son in all that he does.”

~ 5th Grade Parent

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Student Government is an excellent opportunity for students to further develop their leadership skills. Students run for office, and once elected, really put the 7 Habits to work. They “Begin With the End in Mind” by creating a vision for the school and what kind of impact they want to have as leaders. That vision guides them as they “synergize” to create fun and unique experiences for the student body. Officers learn organization and delegation skills as they plan parties, service projects, school assemblies, and more. Students plan, organize, and execute all activities on their own, with their teacher as coach and facilitator. These activities strengthen their leadership skills, deepen their relationships, and build lasting friendships in school and throughout the world. In 2013 the Student Government organized a “smile-raiser” to support Operation Smile. In 2014, students planned a “penny war” which raised over \$1,000 for local families in need at Christmas time. This year they have been involved in gathering items to help refugees. Our Student Government members become aware of local and global needs and take initiative to be part of the solution. They certainly gain skills and self-confidence to succeed as leaders.



STUDENT MENTORS

Students learn from one another as they are connected with each other for various activities. ‘Reading Buddies’ creates the opportunity for older students to be mentors; to have the experience of setting good examples and caring for others. Younger students have someone they can trust and look up to and ‘high-five’ in the hallway. ‘Study-buddies’ are peers who support each other to succeed in their classes. They understand that each individual has strengths and weaknesses; that sometimes we lead, and sometimes we follow and learn. All students are encouraged to reach out to those they don’t know well, to include rather than exclude, and to cheer each other on as classmates try new things and stretch to meet their goals. All of our students have daily opportunities to mentor another.

“Arches is the perfect fit for our daughter. She started in Pre-K and is now in Kindergarten. Not only does she enjoy school and have great friends of all ages, she has continued to do well academically and enjoys the variety of classes and teachers. We couldn’t be happier with Arches.”

~ Daniel Hiatt, Parent



Interview with Chris



Expert, UNFETTERED TEACHERS



ENCHANTMENT

– The arch is mysterious, inspiring a sense of wonder and works of fantastic imagination.



A carefully crafted student body and a collection of uniquely constructed learning experiences are two pillars of an Arches education. Nevertheless, this education only comes together when a proficient teacher of real caliber is able to use his or her creative expertise to bridge the pillars, forming a gateway to student growth and achievement.

TEACHER MANAGED, STUDENT CENTERED

Every school makes efforts to hire the best teachers available, but even the finest teacher’s hands can be tied by the governmental bureaucracies controlling public and charter schools. When a one-size-fits-all curriculum is enforced and then measured with extensive standardized testing, even the greatest teachers are limited to only presenting the mandated curriculum—no matter how ineffective it may be—and find themselves trading precious instruction time for test preparation. Coupled with the problems of oversized classrooms and budget constraints of an underfunded system restricting supplies, activities, fieldtrips, and other resources, even exceptional teachers find it hard to be their best.

Arches Academy was designed, founded, and is administered by teachers, a unique business model and vision of an exceptional faculty empowered to use their expertise to inspire, instruct, and interact meaningfully with their students. As a private school, we are exempt from government mandates on curriculum and assessment. Teachers un-fettered by standard scripts and mandated curriculum can apply their expertise to teaching students, not a “class” or a

curriculum. Using the state curriculum as a springboard, rather than a ceiling, our teachers are free to integrate the latest best validated practices, the individual needs and interests of their current students, parent feedback, and local educational offerings to design personalized education fit specifically for their current students. They teach above and beyond set standards or tests, promoting excellence in each individual regardless of a student’s starting point. No child is given less attention because they are doing “just fine.” Rather, students at all levels of learning are supported and encouraged by creative, caring, exceptional teachers to progress, thrive, and enjoy their education.

EMPOWERED, DEDICATED, INVOLVED

This empowering environment attracts the most dedicated teachers, teachers interested in being able to use their talents and expertise to reach students and shape education in beneficial ways. Teachers partner to help manage all aspects of the school, and partners share responsibility for the success of the school as whole. As a result, they focus not only on their own classroom, but collaborate to follow students’ progress across classes and through the years. Partners think carefully about which students to admit and retain, and limit class size to ensure that every teacher can be effective and achieve the educational vision they establish with each and every student and their parents.

Senior partners also serve on the Board, enabling them to help grow and protect the financial resources needed to fulfill their educational vision. Instead of being limited by an administration or governmental



regulators who often understand very little about the needs of a classroom, partners at Arches procure the funds necessary to support a rich variety of learning experiences and acquire the latest technologies and cutting-edge resources to complement classroom learning experiences.

EXPERTS IN THEIR FIELD

To accomplish this, teachers at Arches must truly be experts in their field. They are creative masters of the subject and know the academic terrain where they will guide student journeys. They also understand the dynamics of different learning environments and the operation of a school organization. Teachers stay abreast of emerging technologies and theories of development that can be instrumental in helping the specific students in their classes. They understand student social and character development and are committed to working with parents to nurture the whole child. At Arches every teacher either has a professional teaching degree or is on a path to that end. Some teachers have capitalized on their Arches experience to apply to or pursue graduate programs at top universities such as Georgetown and Harvard.

It is these kinds of teachers—teachers with real expertise and deep understanding, teachers that are free to adapt their methods to the needs of specific students, teachers that are incentivized to work as a team to create a comprehensive learning environment—that bridge a carefully crafted student body with uniquely constructed learning experiences. At Arches, teachers make the difference.

“What could a great school teach a child if the school effectively uses the hours the child is there? Arches Academy is a school full of administration and teachers that love to teach and love what they do. If you imagine what great educators are and what great educators do, I think that would describe the staff at Arches. They are emotionally committed to the school and the children—they aren’t just punching the clock or counting the days until retirement.

Arches uses leveled learning so if your child is ahead or behind in a core subject, they will receive teaching at the level that is appropriate for them. Students receive exposure to more topics/classes because the teachers effectively use their time. The administration asks for parent input on curriculum, on what is going well, and on what may need improvement. If I come in the building to pick up my kids, the teachers are in the school and proactively stop to talk with me about my children. I don’t have to wait for a parent teacher’s conference.

I know what my kids do at school. I used to joke that I was going to strap a GoPro camera to my son’s head so I could see what was going on at his last school. I know the staff by name and they know my name. Since the school is small, I likely already know the teacher my child will have next year. I don’t have to worry and hope that my kids get “the good teacher” like other schools.

I love it when my kids ask if tomorrow is a school day and they’re happy when I answer “Yes.”

~ Chris Wood, Parent

FRONTIER – The arch marks the frontier, beckoning pioneers to push past the cutting edge.





"ARCHES IS AMAZING!"

The dedication and caring of each of the teachers really sets them apart. Our kids love learning, love reading, and love going to school because of the unique environment they create at Arches Academy."

~ Biggs Family

Arches
ACADEMY