

AmeriSchools Perspectives

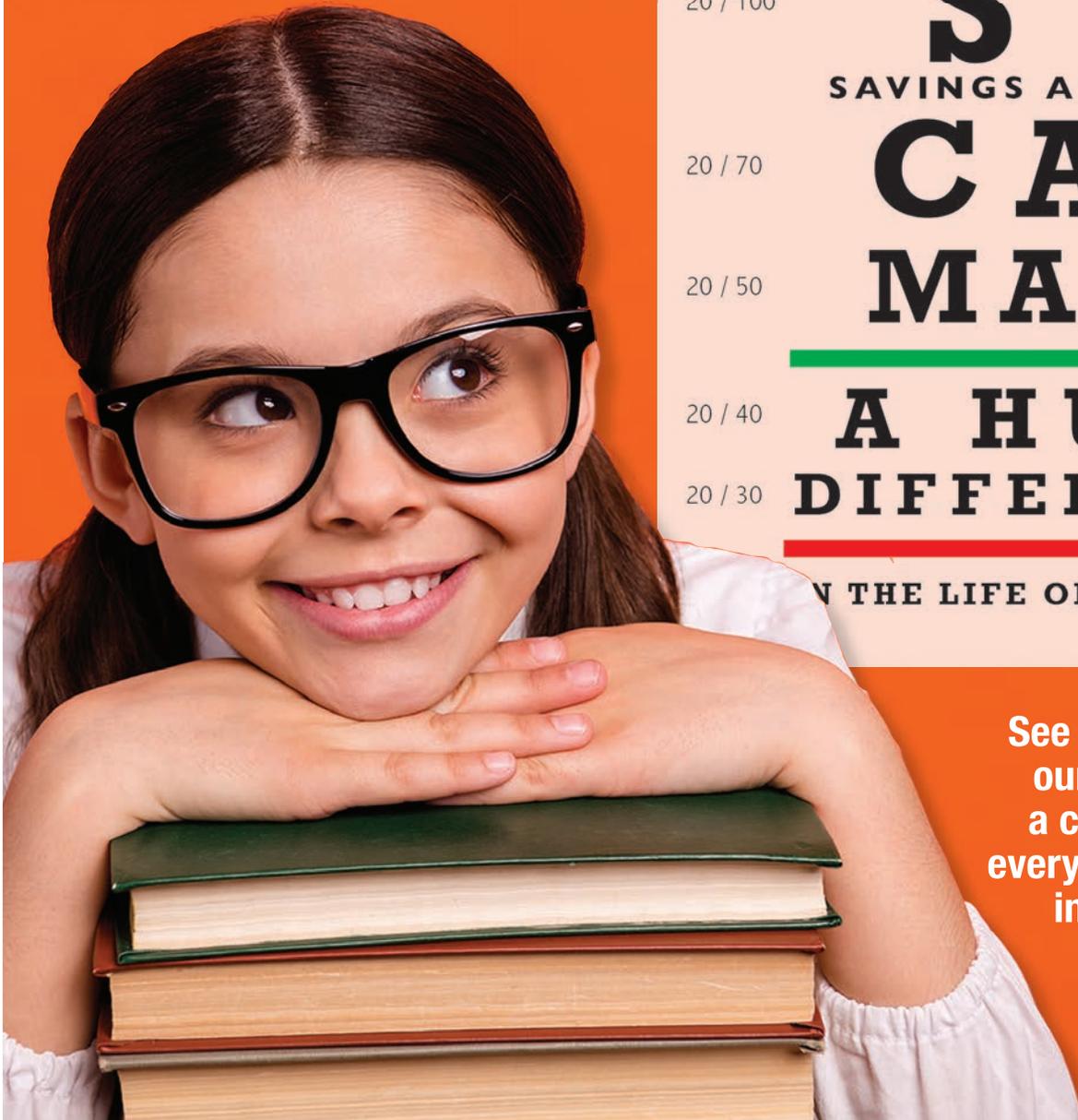
VOLUME ONE NUMBER TWO
WINTER QUARTER 2020 ISSUE
AMERISCHOOLS ACADEMY

Introducing Our 20/20 Vision for 2020

20 / 200	E	1
	EDUCATION	
20 / 100	S A	2
	SAVINGS ACCOUNTS	
20 / 70	C A N	3
20 / 50	MAKE	4
20 / 40	A HUGE	5
20 / 30	DIFFERENCE	6
	IN THE LIFE OF YOUR CHILD	7

See inside for details on
our visionary dream of
a college education for
every AmeriSchools child
in grades 3 through 8

PAGES 4-5



The Future of Education in Arizona

A CONTINUING SERIES BY
DR. REGINALD BARR, FOUNDER,
CHARTER FOUNDATION

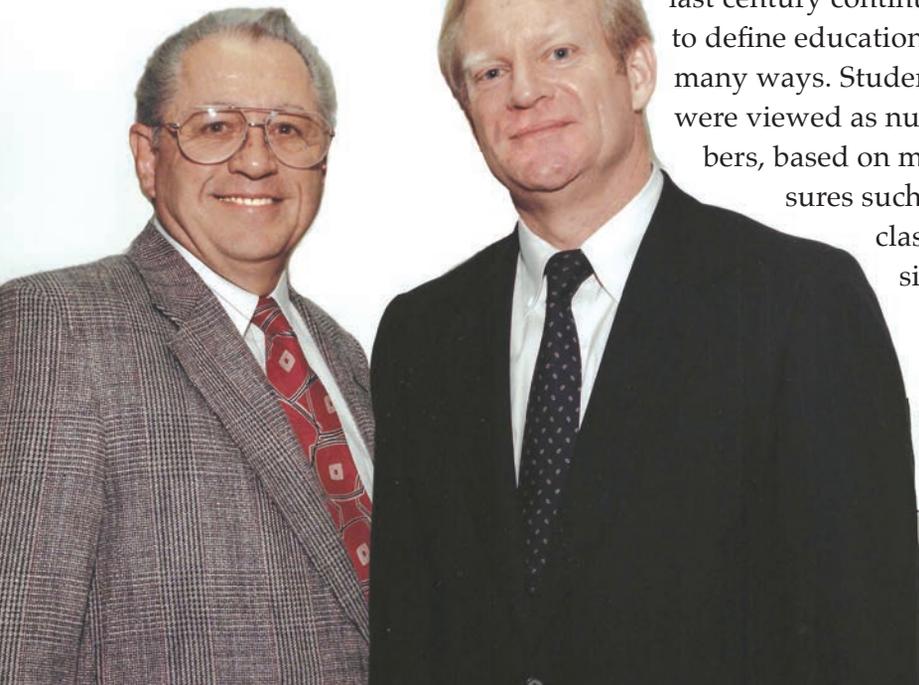
AmeriSchools Perspectives

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Dr. Reginald Barr with Arizona Governor, Fife Symington, who established charter schools in Arizona by signing sweeping education reform legislation in 1995.



Freedom of Choice Benefits Our Children!

In our daily lives, the dominance of choice has become the bedrock and foundation for new realities in this decade of 2020. We have more choices than ever before. The Department of Labor has reported that about one in four workers is employed as an independent contractor. In just five years, the number of vehicle models in production has more than doubled, including options that blur the imagination. The impact of choice in education has become obvious. The terms “charter,” “virtual,” “Google” and “e-commerce” are choice creations. We choose how our children are educated. We research and choose what we buy and how we live our lives. We reject the “one-size-fits-all” world. Charting a course for the road ahead, demands that options must be available for children to survive in this competitive global environment of choice.

Expanding our Choices is Powerful.

The traditions of the last century continue to define education in many ways. Students were viewed as numbers, based on measures such as class size,

brick and mortar facilities, stand and deliver teaching, or the chalkboard as a teaching tool. Each of these speak to limits, not an expanding set of options that derive power from multiple choices.

Do you want your child’s potential to be determined by a marginally successful school or district? Such minimal efforts may result from authoritarian decision makers, antiquated course offerings or evaluation schemes contributing little to embrace student needs. This outdated model, driving solutions for avowed economic problems, has become the caution from prior decades, providing few if any creative options required by the students of the twenty first century.

The Information Age is the New Frontier of Choices.

Freedom of choice can be defined by the following mythical students; Jose or Bill — popular names for many young men in this new century. Each will soon knock on our schoolhouse door and introduce themselves. A forceful statement will be abundantly clear, “These are my standards, please teach me.” These personalized needs are compatible with the internet, e-commerce, social media, the charter school and other factors that allow for choice.

The future is to be dictated by recognizing the personal, yes, *personal* standards held by individuals. Please note, that by creating personal standards, there may be conflict with norms held by the dominate society.

Freedom of choice for our children is the order of the day! This is why charter schools are an important asset for this new century.

The founding of The Charter Foundation doing, business as the Ameri-

Schools Academy, has been greatly affected by the personal beliefs held by the individual members of the Board of Directors. Site selection for each school has been in the inner city of each community serving Phoenix, Tucson and Yuma.

The inner city child and family have accepted an opportunity that others have shunned. The academic results currently indicate that AmeriSchools charter district is sustaining an “A” grade, with sixty percent of the students attending an “A” graded school and forty percent of the students attending a “B” graded school.

Education Savings Accounts for Today — Not Tomorrow.

Fundamentally the Board wants to create stability for student enrollment, recognizing academic growth and success. AmeriSchools is and will continue to make a big difference for each student and family.

AmeriSchools Continues Making a Big Difference!

Beginning with the registration of students in March and April of 2020, The Academy will inform and assist each parent or guardian, on how to set up and maintain a government-approved Education Savings Account (ESA) for each of their children enrolled in grades 3 through 8.

The funds in these accounts are to be in the personal possession of the child, and the parents or guardians. According to the enabling legislation, the funds may be expensed for items such as books, uniforms, computers, tutoring, transportation, smartphones, and even special needs services.

By meeting attendance and academ-



ic goals of state-mandated standards, students are to be rewarded by the Board of Directors of AmeriSchools with private funds granted to support each personal ESA. Contributions to the students education accounts are to be provided by private individuals and corporations — **no state assistance**. In addition, family members and friends may also contribute.

The registration and recorded attendance of the students in August 2020 (at the start of the fall semester), will trigger the opening of the individual Education Savings Accounts, a bell-weather event.

For further information concerning the government-approved Education Savings Accounts, please refer to pages 4 and 5, plus the inside back cover of this issue.

—Dr. Reginald Barr,
Chief Executive Officer

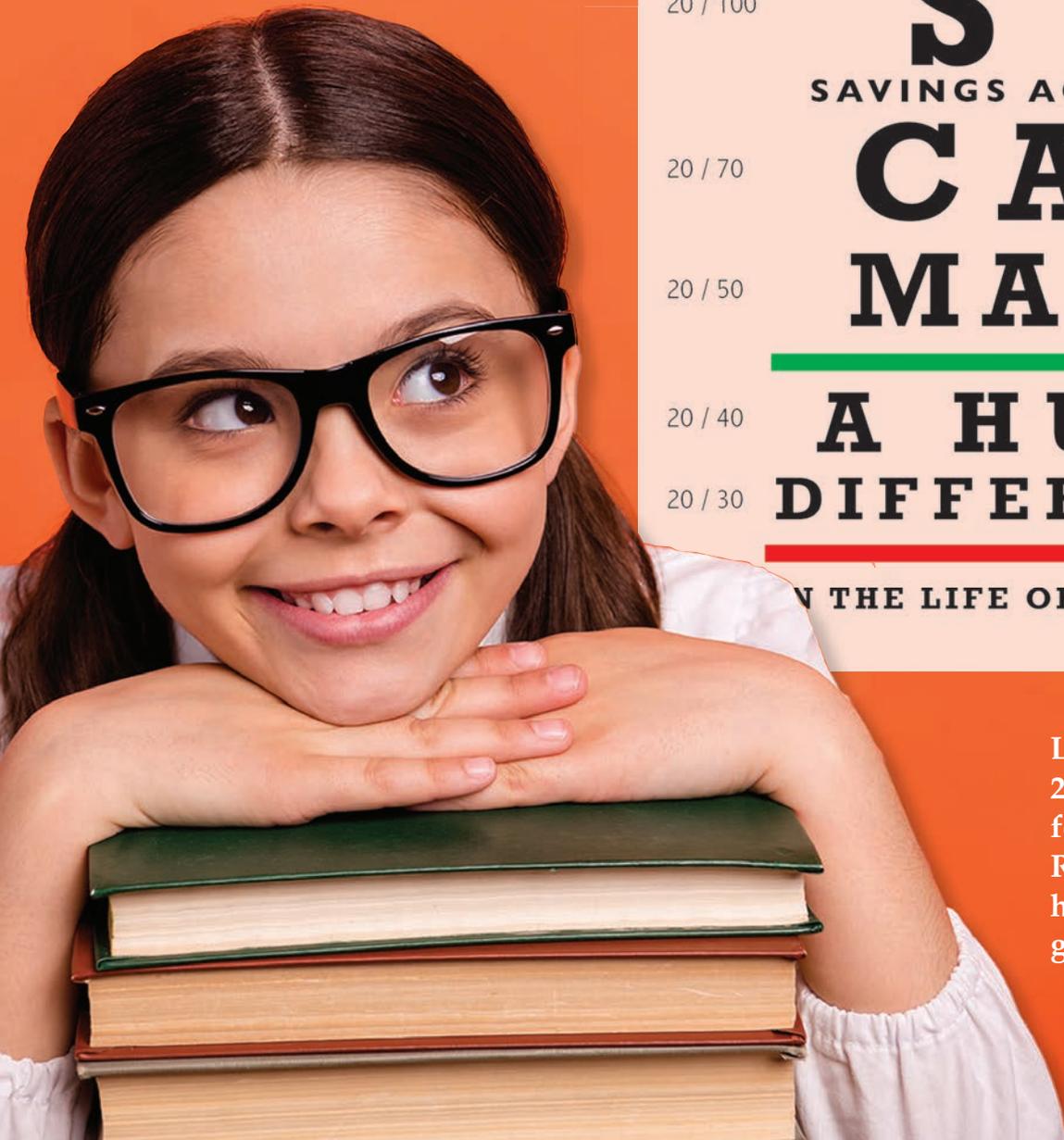
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Dr. Reginald Barr
former president of The Arizona State Board of Education and Associate Superintendent of the State Department of Education, is the founder of Charter Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to developing charter schools throughout the State of Arizona, including AmeriSchools Academy, and co-founder of University High School, Tucson Unified School District.

The 2020 Vision for AmeriSchools

*It's never too soon to
start saving for your
child's education.
We can help.*



20 / 200	E	1
	EDUCATION	
20 / 100	S A	2
	SAVINGS ACCOUNTS	
20 / 70	C A N	3
20 / 50	M A K E	4
20 / 40	A H U G E	5
20 / 30	D I F F E R E N C E	6
	IN THE LIFE OF YOUR CHILD	7

Let's make the year
2020 the best it can be
for our children.
Remember, they don't
have a second chance to
get a great education.

Introducing Education Savings Accounts for AmeriSchools Students in Grades 3 through 8



20/20 Vision for 2020

In addition to great eyesight, “20/20 vision” can also mean having the insight as to how something could or should be in the years ahead.

AmeriSchools Academy is committed to ensuring that our best possible vision for our children’s future can be realized.

Beginning in the Fall 2020, AmeriSchools will help set up and initially fund a government-approved, Education Savings Account (ESA) for every child in grades 3 through 8.*

Unlike other education savings plans, our Education Savings Account allows for funds to be applied to education-related expenses from preschool on up. It’s a college savings option that comes with a higher rate of return than traditional bank savings accounts, as well as federal tax advantages.

Additionally, funds can be used for any qualifying educational expenses (QEE) — not just for college tuition, but also for books, uniforms, computers, smartphones, tablets, housing, transportation, tutoring, and even special needs services.

Points to Keep in Mind

- ★ An ESA can only be opened for children under the age of 18, and contributions cannot be made to the account past the age of 18.
- ★ Money from the ESA can be used to pay for qualifying educational expenses from Pre-K through college.
- ★ The total contributions per beneficiary cannot exceed \$2,000 per year, regardless of how many accounts the beneficiary may have.
- ★ The money withdrawn from the child’s Education Savings Account, including any interest earnings, is tax-free.
- ★ Money in an ESA must be used prior to the beneficiary turning age 30, however, the money can be rolled over into the account of a qualifying member of the beneficiary’s family who is under the age of 30.
- ★ Education Savings Accounts, (ESA) are offered and can be opened at most financial institutions, including: banks, credit unions, mutual fund companies and brokerage firms.

Now’s the Time to Start

Starting an Education Savings Account is one of the most significant things we can do to help our children succeed, and the best way to do that, is to start early. It teaches children the importance of saving money and makes it easier to make the decision to go to college when money is already saved.

There’s no better time than now to begin saving for your child’s future. The Academy will take care of the details, and your family and friends can add to the account as often as they wish.

For more information and timeline, see page 23 of this issue.

**An Education Savings Account (ESA) with an initial deposit of \$10.00 will be opened in the child’s name with a federally insured financial institution of the parent’s choice. (All contributions are from private corporations and individuals—no state assistance.) AmeriSchools is a non-profit, Pre-Kindergarten thru 8th Grade Charter School, licensed in the State of Arizona, with campuses in Phoenix, Tucson and Yuma.*



Charter School News

National & Local News



Charter Schools – An Untapped Opportunity for Investors

There are more than three million students in charter schools nationwide, and it's estimated that five million families would send their child to a charter if a spot were available.

So why aren't many more of them opening? One reason is that unlike traditional public schools, charter schools cannot issue general-obligation bonds for property purchase or construction. They depend on the open market to fund the purchase or renovation of facilities.

So charter school organizers often find interest rates about 1.5 percentage points higher than those enjoyed by traditional public schools. That extra interest expense makes it harder for charter schools to hire more teachers, increase salaries and buy resources for students.

Yet according to sources such as Ernst & Young, charter schools are an extremely safe bet, compared with many real-estate investments. This makes charter schools an ideal opportunity for impact investors—

those who aim to “do well by doing good”—i.e., generate a social benefit along with a positive financial return. If they were allowed to make larger, lower-cost loans than are available on the open market, supporters of charter schools could help charter schools spread and flourish and to offer spots to many of the students waiting to enroll.

The discrepancy between charter schools' high cost of capital and their demonstrated stability and low default rate is exactly the sort of gap that should attract impact investors.

Charter schools are an untapped opportunity for impact investors. Investors in charter schools have the satisfaction of knowing that their investments would finance expenses that donors can't cover with gifts, and they can feel confident that their investments are very likely to pay off. In addition, they can help meet a goal that should be shared by everyone: better education for America's children.



City of New Orleans adopts all-charter school system

New Orleans' school district used to have some of the nation's worst academic test results, and was Louisiana's second-poorest performing district. According to the nonprofit advisory organization New Schools for New Orleans, most of the district's schools were failing.

But between 2004 and 2018, more and more of the schools in the district became charter schools, and the result has been an academic transformation. According to research done by New Schools for New Orleans and at Tulane University:

- **The high school graduation rate rose to 78% from 54%**
- **The college entry rate rose to 60% from 37%**
- **The proportion of New Orleans students attending the lowest-performing schools dropped from 62% to 8%.**
- **The number of students attending schools ranked “A” or “B” more than doubled.**

Most of the charter schools were founded locally, and about a third of them are run by independent operators similar to Amerischools, as opposed to large-scale charter management companies.

The schools offer a robust range of academic programs, including STEM, the arts, the classics, language-immersion, and project-based learning.

This experiment has produced dramatic improvements for New Orleans. Could it work for Arizona?

Local charter schools stay positive with state grades

At the end of each year, the Arizona State Board of Education assigns schools a letter grade of A-F, based on student academic growth in categories including English language arts, math and science. The grade also reflects student readiness for their next level of education or for success in a career. High school graduation rates are also measured.

AmeriSchools' North and South campuses both finished 2018-2019 testing on a high note: the North campus earned an 'A' and the South campus close behind with a 'B.'

This was particularly significant for the South campus, which was a 'D' school the previous year.

Coordinator for Instruction Linda McCormack says the jump was the result of "a tremendous amount of work" poured into tutoring sessions, including breaking into small groups during the school day to focus on areas for special growth.

McCormack explained, "We tell our students it's OK to ask questions. Admitting they don't understand something actually helps their classmates because they're brave enough to say, 'I don't get it.'"

In future testing, McCormack hopes to see both campuses continue to move forward, perhaps with South campus earning an 'A' and North campus rising to the "number one" score in the county.



A Petition for School Choice in California

A petition was filed in California to expand School Choice for more children. If passed, it will permit the following:

- Create an Education Savings Account for each school-age child across the state, upon the request of that child's parents.
- At no additional cost to taxpayers, fund the Education Savings Account with the amount the state designates each year per pupil for K-12 public education, currently about \$12,000.
- Empower parents to use the funds in the Education Savings Account to enroll, pay tuition and/or other eligible education expenses for each child in any eligible school of their choice.
- Allow any unused funds in the Education Savings Account at the end of the school year to be rolled over tax-free for future school years, and upon graduation from high school, allow any savings in the child's account to be used for college and/or vocational education expenses.
- Restrict the State from imposing any condition on the eligibility of any private school, college, or university to receive funds other than current accreditation and safety standards applicable to all private schools operating in California.



Baby wins \$529 in college savings account

One-year-old baby boy, a Scottsdale resident, was the winner of a voucher for \$529 to be applied to an Arizona Family College Savings 529 Plan. The voucher, awarded in a "diaper derby" staged by Arizona College Savings, will start his college savings account.

The AZ 529 plan allows money earned over time — up to \$4,000 — to be tax-free, if it's used for educational expenses.

The baby's friends and family members can also contribute to his AZ529 plan and earn the same tax benefits.

For more information: www.az529.gov.



Why I To Teach

by Mrs. Ellen M. Farr, 4th Level, Yuma North Campus



Having taught for the past forty-two years, twenty-six in the public school system before 'retiring' and then another five teaching English/Literature at a private high school, I can honestly say that the past four years teaching at the North Campus have been the most rewarding.

I have found that the 'cookie cutter' approach of teaching: every class on the same page at the same time, does not work for all, indeed, not for most, students. As an 8th grade language arts teacher at a middle school, several of my students were at the emergent level of language acquisition, while others were native-born English speakers. Asking that all students perform and learn at the same level is a travesty in any classroom, which led me to retirement. That did not last but a summer, when I was drawn to teaching part-time at a private high school which led again to full time teaching at the same school, teaching English and literature in all grade levels, freshmen through seniors. This was an incredible stretch for me professionally, balancing Shakespeare's poetry with seniors and then American

lit with the juniors. However, we all survived and many of my students earned scholarships to prestigious colleges and universities.

These past four years returning to my roots at the elementary level have been challenging and gratifying. I have been afforded the opportunity to grow in my profession, encouraged to explore different methods and techniques of instruction and to instill in my students an ongoing and lasting love of learning, all while incorporating the common core standards. This is what teaching is all about meeting students where they are and inspiring them to reach their highest potential. AmeriSchools has renewed my spirit and resolve that molding students to become life-long learners is an achievable goal.

If this sounds like a daunting task it is, but one which I embrace and cherish. The camaraderie and compassion demonstrated by the staff extends to our entire learning community: students, parents, and the dedicated team of professionals that make up Yuma North!

I cannot imagine a more satisfying career. These are but a few of the reasons why I LOVE TEACHING! ♥



"I was born on Staten Island, New York, graduated with honors from Richmond College (CUNY) and have almost completed the requirements for my MLS degree. My husband is a retired high school counselor and successful cross country and track coach. Our two daughters are both educators in the Phoenix area. (It must run in the family!)"

We love traveling and spending time together as a family as much as our calendars allow. We have traveled to Europe and Australia, and many parts of the United States. We enjoy taking cruises and meeting new people."

My favorite quote:

"I am a Teacher" (paraphrased from Chicken soup for the Teacher's soul)

"I am a teacher. I was born the first moment a question leaped from the mouth of a child. Throughout the course of a day, I have been called upon to be an actor, friend, nurse and doctor, coach, finder of lost articles, money lender, taxi driver, psychologist, substitute parent, salesman, politician, and a keeper of the faith. I am the most fortunate of all who labor. And who do I have to thank for this wonderful life I am so fortunate to experience? The parents, who entrust me their greatest contribution to eternity, their children. I have a past that is rich in memories. I have a present that is challenging, adventurous and fun because I am allowed to spend my days with the future. I am a teacher...and I thank God for it every day."

—JOHN W. SCHLATTER (ADAPTED)

Country Club Campus / Tucson

"Our Performance Arts class builds communication skills through opportunities to write, direct, and perform in a student created play."



★ UNIVERSAL STUDIOS™ ★

SCENE

TAKE

ROLL

DATE

PROD.CO.

DIRECTOR

CAMERAMAN

SOUND



Focus on FLEX Time: Building Skills that Matter

by Claudio Bravo, Principal

Our commitment to providing opportunities for our students to develop both academic and personal success required our staff to reconsider what skills matter most. With a rapidly changing world and future occupations that haven't even been thought of, the obligation to prepare an AmeriSchools student for the future is imperative. Ultimately, our goal is to create learning experiences that will support 21st Century skills such as collaboration, communication, and critical thinking in addition to fundamental skills for content mastery.

FLEX (Facilitated Learning Experiences) Time is where our teachers become the creative masterminds behind highly engaging, hands-on, data driven lessons that aim to develop those skills.

Beginning with our 3rd – 5th Levels, students are split into smaller mixed grade groups. Having mixed grade level students collaborate with one another has not only fostered more positive interactions but has also motivated students to support peers in their learning. Relying on data to drive instruction to address learning gaps is prioritized during this FLEX Time. Teachers collaborate and meet frequently to share ideas, strategies, and lessons focused on hands-on learning experiences. These are the foundational skills that matter for future success.

The Middle School FLEX Time is dedicated to highly engaging learning experiences that will last a lifetime. Students rotate in small groups between classes focused on various themes that are facilitated by a passionate teacher.

In the Math Concepts class you can expect to work together to learn all about Rubik's Cubes. STEM class activities range from teams building popsicle bridges to creating optical illusions. The Power of Music gives students an opportunity to research and present their learning about how music has played a role in historical events such as the Civil Rights Movement. Our Performance Arts class builds communication skills through opportunities to write, direct, and perform in a student created play. The Computer Literacy class focuses on developing computer skills such as navigation, typing, and formatting. Finally, our 8th Level students have the option to accelerate their learning in the Algebra 1 course.

The AmeriSchools staff is committed to facilitating opportunities to problem solve through enriched hands-on experiences. FLEX Time is just one way in which we create the learning environment for skills that matter most to us. ★



"Math Concepts class study the Rubix Cube."



"Performance class builds communications skills..."



"Computer Literacy class..."



"Accelerated learning in Algebra 1 class..."



"STEM class teams building popsicle bridges..."

Danny Starkins, Dean of students and Special Recreation Coordinator at AmeriSchools, knows how to grow fish, plants, and more importantly, children's minds



**A BIG
“FISH STORY”
THAT MIGHT
EVEN SAVE
THE PLANET**

“Aquaponics not only enriches our students with cross curricular learning, but also empowers our teachers to educate outside the classroom.” —LORIE EASTEP, PRINCIPAL



Since 2010 AmeriShools Camelback students have been cultivating plants of different varieties while utilizing on campus horticulture systems (Gardens) during special recreation programs. Students acquire skills such as, techniques in germinating seeds, transplanting plants, garden maintenance, and food preparation. Over the last four years, AmeriSchools’ garden has evolved into a fully sustainable efficient aquaponic garden, and will expand even more in early 2020.

Aquaponics systems are a synergetic (symbiotic) relationship between fish, water, and plants that require no organic soil mediums. The Plants grow out of river rock and water. Here is how it works:

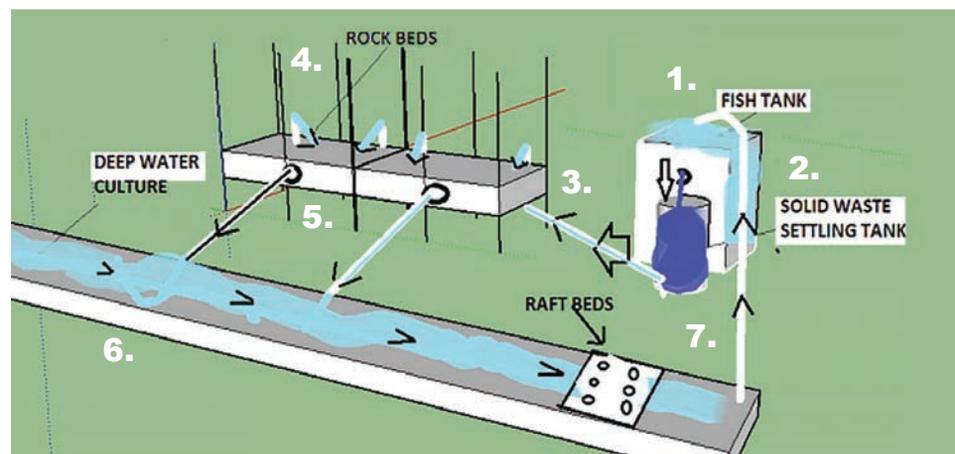
1. **Students feed fish in the Fish Tank.**
2. **Solid waste from the fish settles in a Settling Tank.**
3. **Ammonia from fish waste flows with water to Rock Beds.**
4. **Rock beds fill up, minerals from the rocks filter water, and the nutrients in water deposit onto rocks.**
5. **Plants grow roots and wrap around rocks sucking up nutrients for photosynthesis, blooming, and fruiting.**
6. **When water fills to the top of the rock bed gravity flushes the water out and down to a Deep Water Culture where more plants grow.**
7. **The roots from the plants in the deep water culture filter the water one more time before it is pumped back into the fish tank where the whole process started.**

AmeriSchools Academy students became acquainted in aquaponics in 2016

at the International Rescue Committee’s community greenhouse. Our students were fortunate to study, participate, and observe the life cycle of plants in an aquaponic greenhouse over a two-year educational research project. During the project students and staff were trained by Valley Aquaponic’s owner Mark Bogart. Our student’s contributions to the project lead Valley Aquaponics, with the support of the Phoenix Police Department and Grandview Neighborhood Association, to build an aquaponics system on Ameri-schools’ campus.

Danny Starkins, Dean of students and Special Recreation Coordinator at AmeriSchools said, “Aquaponics allows students to visually observe the life cycle of plants from the roots to the flower to the fruit, witness the biology of a community of fish, as well as, gather comprehension of physical engineering through the flow of water with gravity and filtration.

The current aquaponic system at AmeriSchools has an observatory window centered on a 300 gallon fish tank that can hold up to 100 large fish, and 300 juvenile fish. Our system also has two 6’X4’ rock beds each with a bell siphon covered atop





Valley Aquaponic's owner, Mark Bogart, demonstrates the proper way to handle fish out of water.

by Plexiglas to view gravity suctioning water from the rock beds to the deep water culture.

Amerischools' existing aquaponic system allows students to observe nature at an assessment level. The future expansion of aquaponics at AmeriSchools will grant students to learn cross-curricular core standards in an environment which provides a natural laboratory setting for student enrichment. This February, AmeriSchools will add on a 27'X30' greenhouse encompassing six more rock beds, and an additional 300 gallon fish tank. Valley Aquaponics owner Mark Bogart, along with, students, parents, and staff will be constructing the natural Community as Laboratory for our students to grow.



Amerischools Academy Principle Lori Eastep said, "Aquaponics not only enriches our students with cross curricular learning, but also empowers our teachers to educate outside the classroom." AmeriSchools has always enhanced student achievement and enrichment through using their Community as a Learning Laboratory. Now, our on campus aquaponic systems will extend students learning labs to our community. ★



Teaching Kids About Money



Typically, parents start addressing financial-related topics with their children when they're older. However, it's a good idea to engage their thinking and behavior early-on (from ages 6 through 13) by having them learn vitally important information that will serve them well for the rest of their lives. **Raising a financially astute child is much more than ensuring that they understand how to add and subtract — it's about establishing good habits and values, such as planning, discipline, hard work, and even generosity.**

Of course, children quickly learn that obtaining things they desire requires money. Kids often hear it being discussed by their school friends, or other people around them.

But when parents don't set them on a course to have a deeper understanding of the subject, they are unintentionally missing out on providing their children with beneficial fundamental advantages.

Four areas are particularly important to ensure that your child is financially literate: **Earning, Saving, Spending and Sharing.** Although these sound obvious, each requires considerable understanding. ★

Key money concepts to teach kids about money

1. Concept of 'Earnings'

Give your children a weekly allowance as pocket money. A fixed amount of money on a regular basis will teach them to manage the limited amount carefully. Increase their allowance each year.



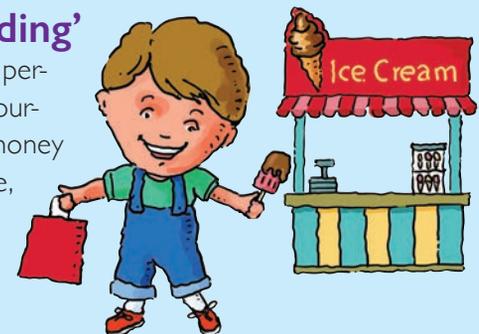
2. Concept of 'Savings'

Make an occasional trip to the bank with your children and talk to them about what a bank does. Give them a savings jar or a piggy bank to practice saving. Offer them a small amount of money at the end of each month. This could be an introduction to the concept of investing and the return one earns from investing.



3. Concept of 'Spending'

Allow your children to spend a percentage of their allowance. Encourage them to contribute some money for the family treat. For example, ice cream or chocolates after dinner. They can even buy their own toys.



4. Concept of 'Sharing'

Inspire your children to save a portion of their pocket money and donate it to a charity. For example, they could use the money to buy a clothing item or food for a person in need. That way they will learn to be considerate and empathetic.



South Campus / Yuma

Four-legged Ambassador visits AmeriSchools students who are raising funds for The Humane Society's Educational "Be Humane" Program

More information about the Be Humane program and other donation opportunities can be found at hsoyuma.com/behumane.

“Annie” pays a visit to AmeriSchools Academy

By Rachel Estes, courtesy of the Yuma Sun



Linda McCormack, Principal

A special visitor stopped by AmeriSchools Academy South’s kindergarten and first grade classrooms last month with treats and tail wags for all.

Students got to meet “Annie,” a sweet-and-scruffy alumna of the Humane Society of Yuma who was adopted into her ‘forever’ home four years ago.

For the last week, these students and their peers from the AmeriSchools Yuma North and Yuma South campuses have been raising money for HSOY’s “Be Humane” program, an educational fundraising initiative that allows students to interact with some of the animals while helping advocate for their welfare.

“We’re helping them learn the importance of being respectful to animals and to people...because we’re all living creatures in need of love,” HSOY Executive Director Annette Lagunas said.

Lagunas shared animal-approaching etiquette with the group so when they see a dog like Annie out and about, they’ll know how to interact with him or her.

Along with being kind to all animals and respectful of their personal space and territory, the kids learned to always ask a dog’s owner if it’s all right to pet him or her, then hold out a hand so the dog can take a sniff and become familiar with their new friend before getting those loving ear scratches and belly rubs. At the end of the talk, the students got to practice what they learned with Annie.

“Not every child has a dog at home,” Lagunas said. “Providing them with this interaction in school helps give them an understanding of how to approach an animal.”

Each of the campus’s classes are in competition with each other to be the top earner of donations. The winning classroom will throw a Papa John’s pizza party with a HSOY guest of honor, with each class’s top donation-earner receiving a special field trip to the humane society for a VIP tour and lunch with Lagunas and some of the animals.

They’ll find out who the lucky winners are when everyone goes back to school after Thanksgiving break.

“I love seeing them give back to the community and the humane society, because they’ll carry what they’re learning with them when they’re older,” Coordinator for Instruction Linda McCormack said.



North Campus / Yuma



The Importance of Teaching Life Lessons Through Sports

by Joseph Sanchez, Coach

We all know the main benefit of sports is physical activity but there are several other benefits from participating in sports. I've seen kids grow as leaders, gain confidence, and also improve their academics.

I'm a firm believer that academics come before sports (you are a student before an athlete). When I coach teams I try to look at the bigger picture and do everything to help the student find success in the classroom and on the field. I have seen students that are failing in class begin to try harder and get better grades because they love competing in the sport and don't want to be benched during practice and games.

I have also witnessed kids with low self-esteem gaining more confidence as they play and improve. I mainly coach basketball and it is an uplifting feeling when you watch the glow and excitement on a child's face when they get make a shot that in the beginning they couldn't make. That confidence will help them in life because they will believe in themselves and have the determination to work hard to get what they want. I make sure to tell the kids that it is okay to make mistakes and to learn from them as they continue to move forward. For them to just go out there and do their best and try to come out a better version of what you were when you started. They learn that they need to set small goals to accomplish on the path to the larger goals.

The last benefit that I see is developing leadership skills and learning how to be a team player. You don't have to be the best player on the team to be a leader or a great teammate. Most people think great leaders are made because of the words that they use but it is more than that. They are great leaders because they set an example to the others and model the abilities and traits that they expect to see on the others as they motivate the team to do better. Some of the greatest leaders have had teams rise to the top because they know how to bring out the best in their teammates. These are all of the traits and qualities that we want to see as we develop our future leaders.

These are all of the reasons that I feel that sports are important in the development of children. It helps them stay healthy, build confidence, increases academics, and builds leadership and collaboration skills.



National School Choice Week

JANUARY 26- FEBRUARY 1, 2020

National School Choice Week was founded in 2011 to promote the concept of all forms of school choice: district schools, district magnet schools, charter schools, private schools, and home schooling. The week of events is scheduled the last week of January each year. As an organization it does not promote one form of educational choice over another, but rather contends that parents should have and make choices in the best interest of their children. Below is a chart listing the different types of schools and what they offer to Arizona's school children.



School choice in Arizona



School choice is the process of allowing every family to choose the K-12 educational options that best fit their children.

TRADITIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FREE TO ATTEND  OPEN TO ALL

OPEN ENROLLMENT 

Traditional public schools are available for families throughout the state. States that allow families access to their choice of traditional public schools offer what's called "open enrollment."

Arizona parents may choose any traditional public school within their district, or in another district, based on the state's flexible open enrollment laws.

CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FREE TO ATTEND  OPEN TO ALL

 WIDELY AVAILABLE

Charter schools are public schools that are allowed the freedom to innovate while being held accountable for student achievement.

Public charter schools are available for families in a variety of areas. In Arizona, charter schools can be opened after they are authorized by an independent statewide approval board, colleges and universities, or the state.

MAGNET PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FREE TO ATTEND  OPEN TO ALL

 WIDELY AVAILABLE

Public magnet schools are permitted in all 50 states and focus on specific themes, such as math, science, technology, or the performing arts.

ONLINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FREE TO ATTEND  OPEN TO ALL

COURSE ACCESS   WIDELY AVAILABLE

Online public schools provide a fully online, free educational option to students through digital classes. Alternatively, course access allows parents to supplement students' education with a la carte online classes.

Arizona offers several free, full-time online learning and course access options for students.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

 FREE TO SOME  SELECT STUDENTS

 WIDELY AVAILABLE

Private schools are widely available, charge tuition, and may be faith-based or independent. Many private schools or nonprofit organizations offer scholarships.

Arizona offers a variety of state-run scholarship programs for students who are disabled, displaced, low-income, residents of a Native American reservation, children of active military members, or meet other criteria.

HOME EDUCATION

 OPEN TO ALL

 WIDELY AVAILABLE

Home education is permitted in all 50 states, and many homeschool families choose to participate in curriculum sharing groups, online learning activities, or cooperatives.

www.schoolchoiceweek.com    

“The Secret in Education lies in Respecting the Student.”

—RALPH WALDO EMERSON



Your Child's Success is Our Priority! Let them Experience The AmeriSchools Difference.

Your child's achievement in reading, language and mathematics is the core of what we do.

AmeriSchools Academy offers quality, child-centered, tuition-free, public education. Instruction is delivered in a multi-age, multi-level environment to enhance student success. Small class size offers your child a personalized education utilizing skill-based instruction and assessment. Please call the campus of your choice, or go online to: www.AmeriSchools.org, to enroll your child today.



OUR CORE VALUES

- 1. Multi-Age, Skill-Based Classrooms.** Provides challenging environment where students promote their own advancement in the time they need to achieve the academic requirements. Reduces discipline issues with students who become frustrated when they are not grasping academic concepts.
- 2. Low Student to Staff Ratio.** Allows for more direct student instruction for the acceleration of students. Promotes a safe and focused learning environment.
- 3. Highly Qualified Staff with Low Teacher Turnover.** Ensures students are receiving the best education possible in a comfortable, consistent environment. Staff resumes are available to review in each school office.
- 4. Anti-Bullying Policy.** Students learn the importance of helping others, and standing up for themselves, which builds character.
- 5. Community as a Laboratory.** Provides unlimited access to the community as a means for learning. and also instills the satisfaction of giving back to the community.
- 6. Creative Programs.** Allows students to express themselves through their creative abilities, and to promote a positive self image.
- 7. Extra-Curricular Activities.** Provides additional opportunities for students to participate in their learning environment. Creates a sense of belonging and increased self image. Field Days allows students to showcase their physical talents. Clubs may include: Dance, Drama, Spanish, Computer, Basketball, NJHS and Homework.
- 8. Secure, Safe Neighborhood School Environment.** Allows students to feel comfortable in their learning environment. Multiple video cameras monitor each campus.
- 9. Pre-Kindergarten and Before & After School Programs.** Builds a social network for students. Tutorial Opportunities.
- 10. “Open Door” policy.** Parents and guardians are welcome to visit our schools at any time.

AmeriSchools Perspectivas en español



¡La libertad de elección beneficia a nuestros hijos!

En nuestra vida diaria, el dominio de la elección se ha convertido en la base y las bases de nuevas realidades en esta década de 2020. Tenemos más opciones que nunca. El Departamento de Trabajo informó que aproximadamente uno de cada cuatro trabajadores está empleado como contratista independiente. En solo cinco años, el número de modelos de vehículos en producción se ha más que duplicado, incluidas las opciones que desdibujan la imaginación. El impacto de la elección en la educación se ha vuelto obvio. Los términos “charter”, “virtual”, “Google” y “comercio electrónico” son creaciones de elección. Elegimos cómo se educa a nuestros hijos. Investigamos y elegimos lo que compramos y cómo vivimos nuestras vidas. Rechazamos el mundo de “talla única”. Al trazar un rumbo para el camino a seguir, se exige que las opciones deben estar disponibles para que los niños sobrevivan en este entorno competitivo global de elección.

Ampliar nuestras opciones es poderoso.

Las tradiciones del siglo pasado continúan definiendo la educación de muchas maneras. Los estudiantes fueron vistos como números, en función de medidas como el tamaño de la clase, las instalaciones físicas, el soporte y la enseñanza, o la pizarra como herramienta de enseñanza. Cada uno de estos habla de límites, no de un conjunto de opciones en expansión que deriva el poder de múltiples opciones.

¿Desea que el potencial de su hijo sea determinado por una escuela o distrito marginalmente exitoso? Esos esfuerzos mínimos pueden ser el resultado de tomadores de decisiones autoritarios, ofertas de cursos anticuados o esquemas de evaluación que contribuyen poco para satisfacer las necesidades de los estudiantes. Este modelo obsoleto, que impulsa soluciones para problemas económicos declarados, se ha convertido en la precaución de décadas anteriores, proporcionando pocas o ninguna opción creativa requerida por los estudiantes del siglo XXI.

La era de la información es la nueva frontera de opciones.

La libertad de elección puede ser definida por los siguientes estudiantes míticos; José o Bill: nombres populares para muchos hombres jóvenes en este nuevo siglo. Pronto tocarán la puerta de nuestra escuela y se presentarán. Una declaración contundente será muy clara: “Estos son mis estándares, por favor enseñame”. Estas necesidades personalizadas son compatibles con Internet, el comercio electrónico, las redes sociales, la escuela autónoma y otros factores que permiten la elección.

El futuro se debe dictar reconociendo los estándares personales, sí, personales que poseen los individuos. Tenga en cuenta que al crear estándares personales, puede haber conflictos con las normas que posee la sociedad dominante.

¡La libertad de elección para nuestros hijos está a la orden del día! Es por eso que las escuelas charter son un activo importante para este nuevo siglo.

La fundación de The Charter Foundation haciendo negocios como la Academia AmeriSchools se ha visto muy afectada por las creencias personales de los miembros individuales de la Junta de Directores. La selección de sitios para cada escuela ha estado en el centro de cada comunidad que sirve a Phoenix, Tucson y Yuma.

El niño y la familia del centro de la ciudad han aceptado una oportunidad que otros han rechazado. Los resultados académicos actualmente indican que el distrito autónomo de AmeriSchools mantiene una calificación “A”, con el sesenta por ciento de los estudiantes que asisten a una escuela con calificación “A” y el cuarenta por ciento de los estudiantes que asisten a una escuela con calificación “B”.

Cuentas de ahorro educativo para hoy, no para mañana.

Fundamentalmente, la Junta quiere crear estabilidad para la inscripción de estudiantes, reconociendo el crecimiento académico y el éxito. AmeriSchools es y continuará haciendo una gran diferencia para cada estudiante y familia.

¡AmeriSchools continúa haciendo una gran diferencial!

Comienzo con el registro de estudiantes en marzo y abril de 2020, The Academy informará y ayudará a cada padre o tutor sobre cómo establecer y mantener un gobierno Cuenta de Ahorro Educativo (ESA) aprobada para cada uno de sus hijos matriculados en los grados tercero al octavo.

Los fondos en estas cuentas deben estar en posesión personal del niño y los padres o tutores. De acuerdo con la legislación habilitante, los fondos pueden ser gastados para

artículos como libros, uniformes, computadoras, tutoría, transporte, teléfonos inteligentes e incluso servicios para necesidades especiales.

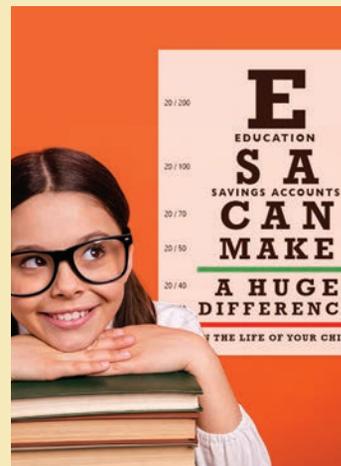
Al cumplir con la asistencia y las metas académicas de los estándares obligatorios del estado, la Junta Directiva de AmeriSchools recompensará a los estudiantes con fondos privados otorgados para apoyar cada ESA personal. Las contribuciones a las cuentas de educación de los estudiantes deben ser proporcionadas por particulares y corporaciones, sin asistencia estatal.

Además, los familiares y amigos también pueden contribuir.

El registro y grabado la asistencia de los estudiantes en agosto de 2020 (al comienzo del semestre de otoño) desencadenará la apertura de las Cuentas de Ahorros Educativos individuales, un evento de clima de campana.

Consulte para obtener más información sobre las Cuentas de ahorro para educación aprobadas por el gobierno, en las páginas 4 y 5, más la contraportada interior (página 23) de este número.

— Dr. Reginald Barr, Director Ejecutivo



Introduciendo la educación ¡Cuentas de ahorro para estudiantes de AmeriSchools en grados tercero a octavo!

20/20 Visión para 2020

Además de una gran vista, la “visión 20/20” también puede significar tener una idea de cómo algo podría o debería ser en los próximos años.

En la Academia AmeriSchools, estamos comprometidos a garantizar que nuestra mejor visión posible para el futuro de nuestros hijos se pueda realizar.

A partir del otoño de 2020, AmeriSchools ayudará a establecer e inicialmente financiar un gobierno, aprobado, cuenta de ahorro educativo (ESA) para cada niño en los grados tercero a octavo.

A diferencia de otros planes de ahorro para la educación, nuestra cuenta de ahorro para la educación permite que

los fondos se apliquen a los gastos relacionados con la educación desde el preescolar en adelante. Es una opción de ahorro para la universidad que viene con una tasa de rendimiento más alta que las cuentas de ahorro bancarias tradicionales, así como ventajas fiscales federales.

Además, los fondos se pueden usar para cualquier gasto educativo calificado (QEE), no solo para la matrícula universitaria, sino también para libros, uniformes, computadoras, teléfonos inteligentes, tabletas, vivienda, transporte, tutoría e incluso servicios para necesidades especiales.

Puntos a tener en cuenta

- ★ Un ESA solo se puede abrir para niños menores de 18 años, y no se pueden hacer contribuciones a la cuenta después de los 18 años.
- ★ El dinero de la ESA se puede usar para pagar la calificación gastos educativos desde Pre-K hasta la universidad.
- ★ Las contribuciones totales por beneficiario no pueden exceder \$ 2,000 por año, independientemente de cuántas cuentas puede tener el beneficiario.
- ★ Dado que las contribuciones hechas a un ESA se realizan utilizando dólares después de impuestos, el dinero retirado, incluidas las ganancias, está libre de impuestos.
- ★ El dinero en un ESA debe usarse antes de que el beneficiario cumpla 30 años, sin embargo, el dinero puede transferirse a la cuenta de un miembro calificado de la familia del beneficiario que sea menor de 30 años.
- ★ Las Cuentas de Ahorro Educativo (ESA) se ofrecen y se pueden abrir en la mayoría de las instituciones financieras, incluidos: bancos, cooperativas de crédito, compañías de fondos mutuos y casas de bolsa.

Ahora es el momento de comenzar

Abrir una cuenta de ahorro para la educación es una de las cosas más importantes que podemos hacer para ayudar a nuestros hijos a tener éxito, y la mejor manera de hacerlo es comenzar temprano. Enseña a los niños la importancia de ahorrar dinero y facilita la decisión de ir a la universidad cuando el dinero ya está ahorrado.

No hay mejor momento que ahora para comenzar a ahorrar para el futuro de su hijo. Nos ocuparemos de todos los detalles y sus familiares y amigos pueden agregar a la cuenta tantas veces como lo deseen.

Para obtener más información, consulte la página 23 de esta publicación.

AmeriSchools Continues to Make a Big Difference!



It's never too soon to begin saving for your child's future. So, to help you get started, AmeriSchools Academy is proposing the following:

Beginning in March 2020, AmeriSchools Academy will begin the process of establishing a Government-approved, Education Savings Account (ESA) for every child enrolled in grades 3 through 8.* Please refer to pages 4 & 5 for more details on ESAs.

THE TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Registration of students (March and April, 2020)
2. Orientation of parents concerning Education Savings Accounts. (May through July, 2020)
3. Verification of student registrations according to student attendance records. (August, 2020)
4. Opening of initial Education Savings Accounts for students in grades 3 through 8 with private funding of \$10.00 for each account. (August, 2020)
5. Attendance and Academic Growth rewards provided at the end of each semester for each student in grades 3 through 8. (Future Academic year 2020-2021)

*An Education Savings Account with an initial deposit of \$10.00 will be opened in your child's name with a federally insured financial institution. **(All contributions are from private corporations and individuals—no state assistance.)** AmeriSchools is a non-profit, Pre-Kindergarten thru 8th Grade Charter School, licensed in the State of Arizona, with campuses in Phoenix, Tucson and Yuma.



AmeriSchools Academy

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Tucson, AZ 85716

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AmeriSchools Academy



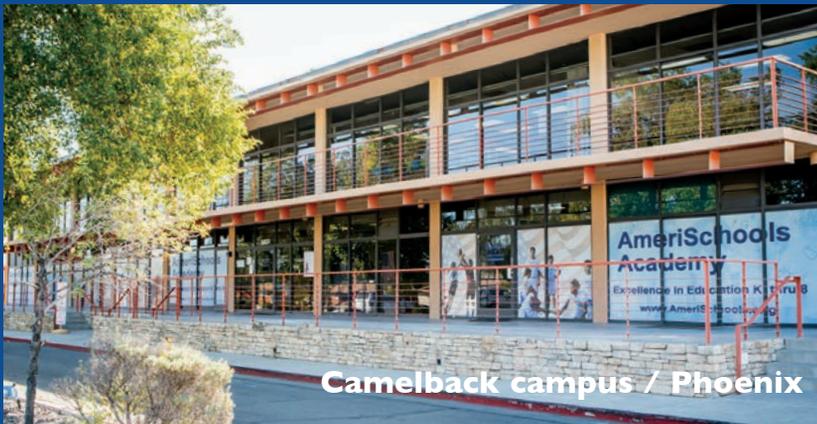
Yuma North campus



Yuma South campus



Country Club campus / Tucson



Camelback campus / Phoenix

AMERISCHOOLS ACADEMY

A system of charter schools for children K-8

To learn more visit:
www.AmeriSchools.org

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SCHOOL LOCATIONS:

YUMA NORTH (K-6)
1220 South 4th Avenue
Yuma, AZ 85364
(928) 919-7203

YUMA SOUTH (K-6)
2098 South 3rd Avenue
Yuma, AZ 85364
(928) 329-1100

COUNTRY CLUB (K-8)
1150 N. Country Club Road
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