



The Grove Academy

Explore. Learn. *Flourish.*

Proposed Opening Fall 2027 | Kindergarten + Grade 1

Terri Guy, Ed.D., Founder + Chief Executive Officer

Designed for Southwest Little Rock

The community we intend to serve

Mabelvale —Otter Creek Corridor



- Established neighborhoods
- Families & community institutions
- Childcare and early-learning providers
- Churches, libraries, and community organizations
- Residential growth and diverse population

We asked whether families here have consistent access to the academic outcomes they want for their children.



2026 ATLAS SNAPSHOT

Mabelvale Elementary

70.3%

K-2 students at levels
1 and 2 in ELA

14%

3-5 students overall
ELA proficiency

Otter Creek Elementary

61%

K-2 students at levels
1 and 2 in ELA

37%

3-5 students overall
ELA proficiency

What families told us

82%

Prioritize strong reading
and writing

82%

Identify limited school
choices as a barrier

68%

Want hands-on,
active learning

Arkansas ATLAS ELA proficiency: 42%

A COHERENT MODEL AROUND HOW CHILDREN LEARN



Protected daily reading and writing



Structured learning stations



Real-world application



Strategic staffing and partnerships

How Teaching Builds Proficiency

y + Independence

01 Explicit and multisensory instruction

Teachers model and guide learning. Whole-group phonics engages children in seeing, hearing, saying, writing, and manipulating sounds and letters.

02 Comprehension and vocabulary with responsive support

Teacher-led small groups build understanding. Assessment guides flexible grouping and scaffolds.

03 Purposeful practice and independent application

Students practice in structured stations. Teachers gradually reduce support as students use learning through inquiry, problem solving, discussion, and writing.

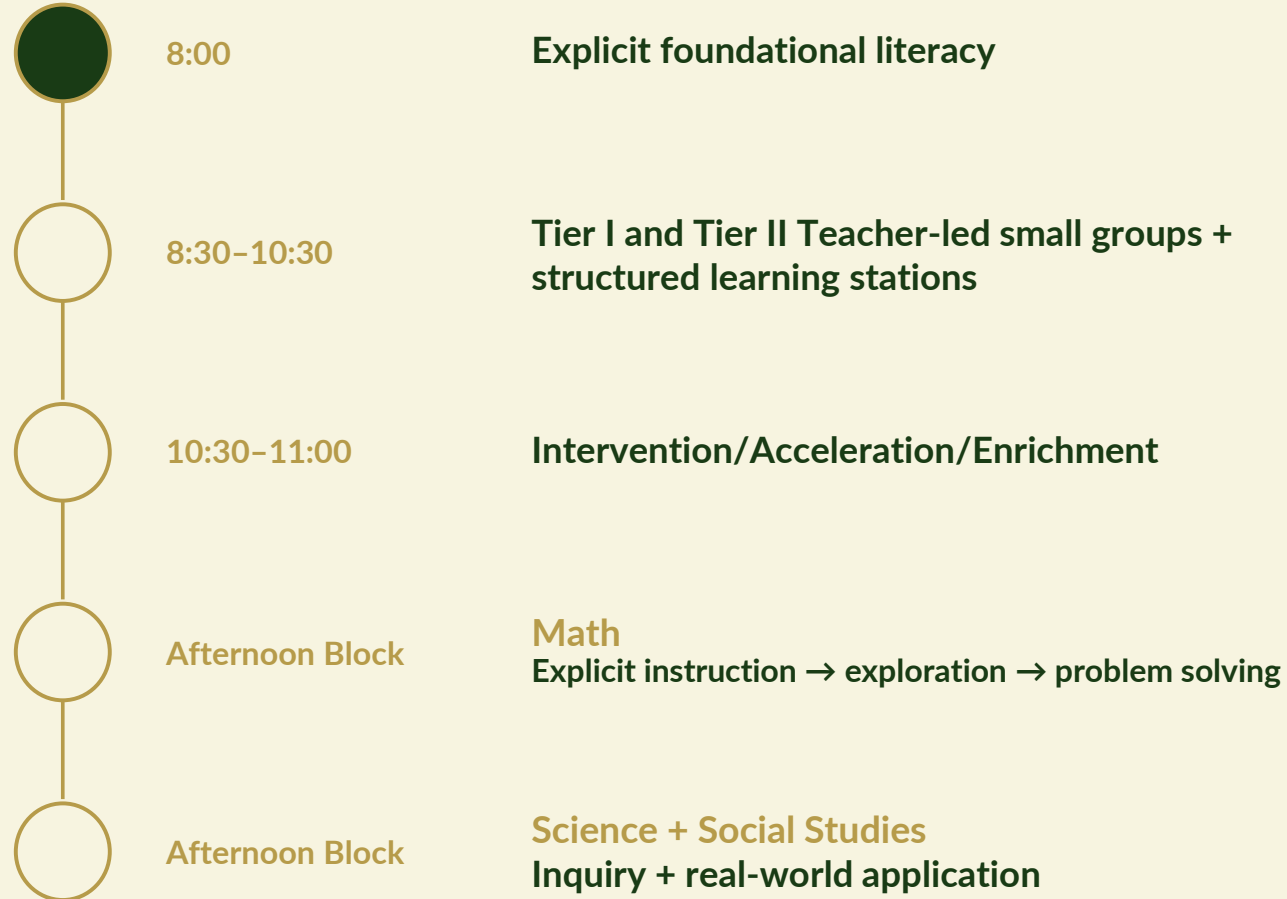


Assess, Analyze, Regroup, Reteach, Monitor, and Adjust

The Schedule Is Part of the Strategy



Time is protected for core instruction, differentiation, intervention, and application



Differentiation and intervention are not add-ons. They are built into the school day.



Scale Follows Readiness



A phased enrollment ramp designed to protect quality.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Kinder	40	40	40	40	40
First	41	41	41	41	41
Second		45	45	45	45
Third			45	45	45
Fourth				45	45
Fifth					45
Total	81	126	171	216	261

Enrollment → Staffing → Space → Financial Capacity → Instructional Quality

Growth is tied to operational readiness.

Governance Capacity Built Around the Work



Board capacity aligned to oversight needs

Expertise	Board Leadership	Oversight Responsibility
Governance	Cynthia Townsend	Board operations, CEO evaluation, policy oversight
Finance	Dr. Jerelyn Duncan	Budget, cash flow, audit, internal controls
Academics	Venus Torrence	Student outcomes, talent pipeline, academic commitments
Facilities	David Diamond	Facilities planning, readiness, occupancy
Governance / Records	Tonya Chambers	Minutes, public accountability, open-meeting compliance

From Authorization to Opening Day

The operating system behind launch readiness

Enrollment	Talent	Finance	Facilities & Compliance
Year-round recruitment funnel Conversion checkpoints Family orientation	Hiring milestones Teacher residency pipeline Pre-opening training	Budget monitoring Back-office systems Internal controls	Occupancy milestones Inspections Opening readiness

BES School Launch Support | Raven Robinson, Back Office Support

Proactive Planning

Risk assessment and mitigation

Risk Area	Early Warning	Mitigation Strategies
Enrollment	Slower application or conversion pace	Monthly funnel benchmarks; monthly touchpoints with enrolled families; waitlist and attrition management; proactive retention strategies
Talent / Model Implementation	Inconsistent implementation across classrooms	Pre-opening training; protected planning; coaching and data cycles; teacher-resident support
Facilities Opening Readiness	Permitting, occupancy, or renovation delays	Milestone monitoring; board facilities oversight; contingency planning; readiness gates
Financial: Revenue & Cash Flow	Enrollment or funding timing creates pressure	Conservative assumptions; enrollment monitoring; phased staffing; finance oversight; contingency spending decisions
Limited Leadership Team	Contingency budget eliminates Director of Operations; CEO carries instructional and operational leadership	Contracted instructional coach; stipend teacher-leader roles through grade band leadership; Business Manager absorbs operations duties; leadership roles restored at enrollment gates



What We Are Building

A school community where children learn to read, write, think, solve, question, and apply what they know—until they can increasingly learn independently.

Explore. Learn. *Flourish.*

Explore is how we engage curiosity. Learn is how we build proficiency. Flourish is what becomes possible when children have both.

