Garfield Scholars' Academy

Creating a special school in a
special place.

The Need

➔ Rogers School District closing existing school in May, 2024
➔ No neighborhood school in Garfield
➔ Tremendous community interest and support for an open enrollment charter school
➔ K-5 students being bused long distance to a new school

Our Mission

To empower our scholars to be

➜ purposeful learners
➜ critical and creative thinkers,
➜ motivated citizens and leaders, and
➜ determined lifelong learners.

Board Members - Garfield Education Foundation

Dr. Melanie Kennon, CEO, Educational Consultant

Mr. Will Neighbors, CFO

Mrs. Maureen Stayton, Special Education, Secretary

PTA Member, TBD

Community Representatives, TBD

Traditional Curriculum - Innovative Methods

- Interdisciplinary subject matter
- Hands-on project-based experiences
- Real-life application of learning in exploration TEAMS
- Individualized student learning plans
- Emphasis on strong character, self-awareness, and community
- Community-based experiences culminating in a school "Farm-to-Table" program

Key Programmatic Features

Naturalistic, Hands-on Approach to Learning

    a.   Science labs, Math labs and Indoor/Outdoor Learning Labs

    b.   School-wide Gardening/Greenhouse/Pollinator Gardens

    c.   Hydroponic Herb Gardens/Aquaponic Fish Farm

    d.   Entrepreneurial Opportunities

           Farm- to- Table Program

           Farmer's Market

           Maker's Market

Family/Community Involvement for Learning

    a.   Parent and Community Engagement Activities

    b.   FACE (Family and Community Engagement) Committee

    c.   Community Teachers (AQT)

    d.   Parent Universities

    e.   Volunteer Options

Key Programmatic Features

Strength-based, Individualized Approach to Learning

   a. Inclusive Environments
   b. Annual Individual Student Success Plans
   c. Frequent Monitoring of Progress
   d. Data Driven Decision-Making
   e. Use of RTI model to identify students at risk
   f. CARE (Collaborative Assessment Responsive Education) team
   g. Character-building and personal goal setting

Interdisciplinary Curriculum

   a. Innovative Instructional Approach with Strong Foundation of Traditional Core Content
   b. Multisensory Instruction to Support Neuro-diverse Learners
   c. TEAMS Approach for Enrichment and Extension (Technology, Economics, Agriculture, Mathematics, and Science)
   d. Multi-age grouping

We will serve….

- K-5 Scholars in Year One.
- Projected growth plan
  - Pre-K and 6th grade in 2025-26 (Year Two)
  - 7th grade in 2026-27 (Year Three)
  - 8th grade in 2027-28 (Year Four)

We want Garfield to be the choice of families from all of the surrounding communities!

Core Curriculum

Literacy

K-2

Wilson Language Training- Fundations

Wit and Wisdom

3rd-5th

Wit and Wisdom

Core Knowledge Language Arts

Wilson Language Training- Fundations (Intervention)

Mathematics

K-2

Everyday Math (McGraw Hill)

3rd-5th

Everyday Mathematics (McGraw Hill)

Hands-on Equations (Borenson)

Core Curriculum

Science

K-5th

- **Science Fusion (Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt)**

Social Studies

K-5th

- **Inquiry Journeys (InquirED)**

Character Education

The Seven Habits of Happy Kids, Sean Covey

The Leader In Me, Core 1, Stephen Covey, Sean Covey ,et al

Character Counts - 6 Pillars of Character

A Day in the Life of a GSA Scholar

K-5

7:00-7:40 - Doors Open

- **Breakfast**
- **Morning recess**
- **Tutoring**

7:45 - 8:05 - Morning Work

8:05 - 8:50 - Protected ELA Block*

8:50 - 2:00 - Specials, Recess, Lunch, Protected ELA and Math Blocks**, Read Aloud/Silent Reading*

2:00 - 2:30 - Interventions/Extensions

2:30 - 3:30 - TEAMS

*All grades have 90 minutes of ELA   **All grades have 60 minutes of Math

6-8 - Block Schedule

> **MWF - Blocks 1-5**

> **TuTh - Blocks 6-8**

Everyday -

> **Interventions/Extensions - 30 minutes**

> **Goal Setting - 25 minutes**

> **TEAMS - 2:30-3:30 Schoolwide**

Blocks assigned to all 6-8 scholars:

Literacy, Math, Science, Social Studies, Fine Arts, CTE, Health/Safety, Elective, Extension/Enrichment

What Makes GSA special: TEAMS

Technology. **E**conomics. **A**griculture. **M**ath. **S**cience.

❏ Opportunities for critical and creative thinking and problem solving
❏ Real-life application of skills
❏ Outcome: independent thinkers and collaborative team members.

Core content is woven into our TEAMS curriculum.

Technology

- Use of technology embedded throughout curriculum

- Engineering addressed in Maker's Market and in the application of principles of science and math to solve real world problems.

Economics

- Partnership with Economics Arkansas (Free on-line curriculum and teacher training)
- Entrepreneurial opportunities, marketing products through Farmer's Market and a Maker's Market
- Participation in cultivating food from our greenhouses and gardens
- Critical and creative problem solving skills practiced in real and relevant ways.

Agriculture

GSA is situated amidst several small agricultural communities.

- Our scholars will produce, prepare, preserve fresh foods they grow.
- Our Farm to Table Initiative will to support our own cafeteria and as well as families in the community.
- Field experiences at local farms will serve as an extension of the TEAMS Initiative.

Mathematics

- Hands-on authentic activities along with a strong foundation in mathematical processes.

- The result: a strong self-efficacy in Mathematics.

Science

- Science is the backbone to our curriculum.

- The Natural Sciences will be integrated into all of our TEAMS initiatives and traditional curriculum.

- Indoor and outdoor labs will support science learning and provide hands-on project-based experiences.

TEAMS: More than an Acronym

Our TEAMS approach to learning will

➢ partner multi-age students working together and individual responsibility and accountability
➢ create an appreciation for individual differences and strengths
➢ teach collaboration on a team to complete a project.

Through TEAMS, students will

➢ develop self-efficacy
➢ be critical and creative thinkers
➢ learn to collaborate and be team players.
➢ become strong civic leaders

How Can We Accomplish These Ambitious Goals?