



The GREAT Academy

GREAT News & Views

August 2016
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Welcome Back!

On behalf of the staff at The GREAT Academy, we would like to welcome you to the 2016-17 school year! We are looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure our students can achieve their highest potential. We recognize that in order to be successful in school, our children need support from both the home and school. We know a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education. As partners, we share the responsibility for our children's success and want you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities. We ask that you guide and support your child's learning by ensuring that he/she:

1. Attends school daily and arrives on time, ready for the day's learning experience
2. Works no less than an hour from home each evening
3. Shares school experiences with you so that you are aware of his/her school life
4. Seeks out help when it is needed
5. Knows that you expect him/her to succeed in school and go on to college or some other post-secondary training

Parent Advisory Committee

Please consider joining our Parent Advisory Committee as our students can greatly benefit from your involvement and contributions to the school's program and its operations. We seek volunteers to help us with the following activities:

1. School-wide events
2. Student recognition events
3. Outreach and recruitment of parent and community volunteers

Student Handbook

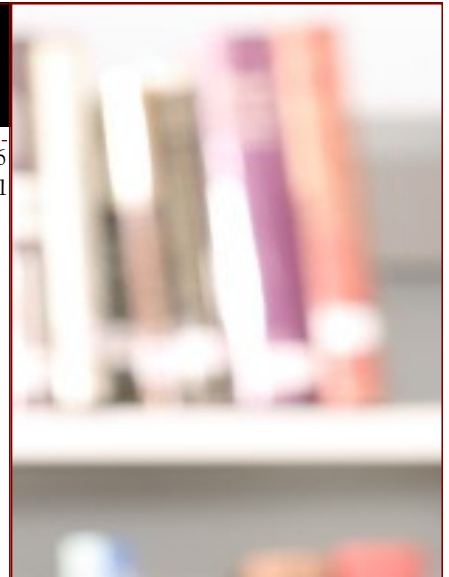
The entire student body participated in a week long review of the expectations in the Handbook. They even took a test and everyone passed! If you have any questions about our expectations, you can find them in your child's agenda. He/She should have this at school at all times. We are teaching students how to use the agenda as a tool to manage their time and set goals. Please look in your child's agenda frequently.

Attendance

Daily attendance is very important. If your child will be absent, please call the front desk staff at 792-0306 (just dial 9) to let us know. Remember that the absence will be rendered "excused" if your child does no less than 4 hours of coursework in Edgenuity. This time must be productive time and not excessively idle. Please also turn in any doctor's notes for visits to excuse absences. When your child has 3, 5, 7, and 10 unexcused absences, please expect to see a letter in the mail. This letter is required on this schedule according to the New Mexico Compulsory Attendance Law. The letter is a template from the state. Truancy is very detrimental to your child's success. If you receive one of these letters, please know that it is an attempt to reach out to you to remedy what ever is causing your child to be absent. We have a number of attendance interventions that we use to support you and your child. Also please be aware that all absences are reported to the state and the Federal Department of Education as a requirement of No Child Left Behind.

Discovery Education Assessment

The Discovery short cycle assessment will be taken during the week of August 22th. The students are assessed in the areas of reading and math according to the Common Core standards three times per year. The TGA instructional staff uses the data from this assessment to determine the standards in which your child may need extra assistance. The time of day that this focused intervention is provided is during 7th period. While this is the last period of the day, it is very important that your child is in attendance. The state test has changing from the SBA (Standards Based Assessment) to the PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers). This new assessment is computer based and is based on the Common Core Standards. The Common Core Standards are a new way of thinking for many students. We expect all students to need some type of intervention. Please respect the 7th period intervention time and be sure to allow your child to be here consistently until 5pm, when our school day ends.



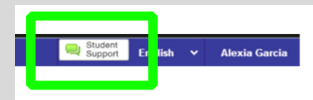
Parent Portal

Have you had the opportunity to set up your Edgenuity Parent Portal account?

The website is learn.edgenuity.com/family. If you need the access code or just help in general, please feel free to call 505-792-0306 and our front desk staff can help you.

Edgenuity Live Support

- If you find yourself struggling, Edgenuity offers live help with a real teacher. All you have to do is click the "Student Support" button at the top of the page in your course map, or online activities. A chat window will open, and you will be asked to identify the problem you need to address. After a few moments you will be able to engage in a live, online chat with a real teacher.
- Support is available in Math, Science and Language arts.



SMS Notification System

To receive alerts from the GREAT Academy for school closures, events and other important official notices please follow the instructions below:

Just text 'GREAT' to 292929 to opt in, or you can go online to www.call-em-all.com/join/great

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 18th— Parent Info Night

August 22-25th— Discovery ED
Testing

September 5—Labor Day (No school)

September 6—ASVAB Exam @ TGA

September 9—Regular School day
(Students Released @ 4:00)

September 16th—ACT Registration
Deadline for 10/22
Test.

We are in the process of setting up our service learnings for the fall semester. So be on the lookout for our future service learning outings.

The GREAT Academy & our GREAT 7th graders

This year The GREAT Academy added 7th grade to our school, and things are starting out GREAT. These 7th graders already consider themselves the future of our school and if you ask a few of them, they will tell you. Along with Ms. Lohmeier, who is an amazing asset to our school, we have added Ms. Enriquez to step in as an EA position. We are very excited to see these former 6th graders (some from here) take that additional step toward high school. They have a very full day here at TGA. They start at 9:00 and end the day at 5:00 pm.



During that last hour of the day, they are learning various skill sets that will aid in their future courses and actively transition them to life after The GREAT Academy. So far, things continue to look GREAT for our future high schoolers.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world” — Nelson Mandela

RENEWAL YEAR!!!

This past year we went into our charter renewal. Every five years, charter schools have to go through a rigorous process to renew their charter. This past year we went through the process for renewal and passed with flying colors. We have been renewed for five years with absolutely no contingencies. We are using our next five years to continually improve and show how GREAT the Great Academy is. TOGETHER WE CAN! WHATEVER IT TAKES! NO EXCUSES!

Staff Highlight of the Month: Ms. Washington

Hello All!

My name is Oshanna Washington and I am a Social Worker here at the GREAT Academy. I am the proud parent of an outgoing 6-year-old. I was born in Los Angeles, California, but raised in Roswell, NM. I have been living in Albuquerque for about 3 1/2 years. I have a Bachelors Degree in Social Work from Eastern New Mexico University. I am currently pursuing a Masters Degree in Social Work from Western New Mexico University. This is my first year at the GREAT Academy. Prior to coming to the GREAT Academy I was employed with the Children's Youth and Families Department (CYFD) as a Permanency Planning Worker. I have experience working with families, children, and community providers. This year is off to a great start and I am looking forward to an exciting school year and serving the wonderful students of the GREAT Academy.

Thank you!