



The GREAT Academy

September 2017
Volume 5, Issue 1

GREAT News & Views



Welcome Back!

On behalf of the staff at The GREAT Academy, we would like to welcome you to the 2017-18 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 two activities per course and a total of four hours of work 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.

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Assessment

This year, instead of the Discovery* short cycle assessment that students have taken in previous years, we will be using the MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) assessment. The MAP assessment will be taken during the week of August 28th. MAP tests are unique in that they adapt to be appropriate for your child's level of learning. As a result, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward testing. And with Map tests, we can administer shorter tests and use less classroom while still receiving detailed, accurate information about your child's growth and progress. Please be sure that your child is on time each day. **The Discovery education company discontinued their assessment division, requiring us to change tests.

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 24th — Parent Info Night

August 28-29th — MAPs Testing

September 4 — Labor Day (No school)

September 6 — ASVAB Exam @ TGA

September 8 — Regular School day
(Students Released @ 4:00)

September 22nd — ACT Registration
Deadline for 10/28
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 8th graders

The 8th graders are super excited to be the first graduating middle school class at TGA. Most of the 8th graders have been here since the 6th grade, and have successfully carved a path for future generations at The Great Academy to follow. First time students in the 8th grade class are happy to be at a new school where they anticipate more individual attention from teachers than they received at their previous schools. All of the 8th graders are hoping to finish with GREAT grades by the end of



the year, and many of them go above and beyond to make sure they achieve that. The 8th grade feels like one big family, and we all support each other just like we are one!

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

TIME TO SHINE!!!

We are pleased to announce that this school year marks the first time The Great Academy has offered all grades 6 through 12. This past year we added an 8th grade class to our school, rounding out our middle school and completing the range of grades TGA encompasses. TGA welcomed 4 new staff members this school year in order to better accommodate student's level of need and our growing student population! TOGETHER WE CAN! WHATEVER IT TAKES! NO EXCUSES!

Staff Highlight of the Month: Ms. Dickson

Hi Everyone!

My name is Caroline Dickson and I am the Student Support Specialist here at the GREAT Academy. I am the proud mother of a lively, compassionate 3 year old little girl and 2 rambunctious kittens. I was born in Inverness, FL but raised in Farmington, NM. I have been living in Albuquerque for 5 years this month. I come from a small family and am the youngest of three children. I graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of New Mexico with a B.A. in Psychology. This is my first year at the GREAT Academy! I worked as a caretaker for adults with developmental disabilities prior to this. I also have experience working with children and youth with emotional and behavioral disorders, having been previously employed by Children's Treatment Center. This year is off to a great start and I am so excited to be a part of the TGA family and to have the opportunity to get to know all of the students and their families better.

Thank you and I can't wait to meet all of you!

The GREAT Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Title IX Coordinator/Section 504 Coordinator:
Name and/or Title: Keisha Matthews - Director of Academics
Address: 6001-A Sun Mateo Blvd NE - Albuquerque, NM 87109
Telephone No: 505-792-0306