

# BASIS

## Charter Schools

● ● ● AHWATUKEE

# BASIS

 Ahwatukee

Grades 4–12



The mission of BASIS Charter Schools is to empower students to achieve at globally competitive levels with a transformative K–12 academic program.

BASIS Ahwatukee is a **TUITION-FREE** public charter school serving grades 4–12. We offer a world-class curriculum, a variety of advanced academic courses, and a strong student support system.

## WHAT MAKES BASIS CHARTER SCHOOLS' ACADEMIC PROGRAM EXCEPTIONAL?

**We are a global leader in education.**

BASIS Charter Schools are consistently named among the top schools in the nation. According to *U.S. News & World Report* 2023 rankings, 10 of the top 20 charter high schools in the nation are BASIS Charter Schools. Our schools also represent six of the top 20 STEM high schools in the country.





BASIS Charter Schools are dedicated to raising the standards of student learning to the highest international levels. Our students engage in the world-class BASIS Charter School Curriculum, which fuels critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity. Classes are led by knowledgeable Subject Expert Teachers who design challenging and engaging lessons that appeal to different learning styles. As a result, BASIS Charter School students achieve excellent academic outcomes and become self-motivated learners.

### **Our students earn some of the top scores in the world.**

Our robust academic program allows students to advance to AP-level courses across all disciplines, and our curriculum is on par with Europe and Asia's high-achieving educational systems.

BASIS Charter School students not only acquire knowledge through our curriculum; they are able to apply it in real-world situations. Results from the OECD Test for Schools (based on PISA), a highly regarded exam taken by students in more than 70 countries, show that BASIS Charter School students outscore their peers in critical thinking. To learn more about our results, visit [enrollBASIS.com/ahwatukee](https://enrollBASIS.com/ahwatukee).

### **We hold students to high academic standards.**

The BASIS Charter School Curriculum requires students to demonstrate mastery of challenging material. We use the College Board's AP Exams® as opportunities for them to demonstrate this mastery. Students are required to take AP courses beginning in grade 9 and will complete at least six AP Exams® prior to graduation. The externally generated and graded AP Exams® also count as final exams for AP courses. This ensures that we are holding our students to the highest possible standards.

### **We hire Subject Expert Teachers for every course.**

Due to the challenging nature of the BASIS Charter School Curriculum, Subject Expert

Teachers—many of whom hold advanced degrees—instruct our students. We are committed to the philosophy that all students can succeed when provided with an advanced curriculum and supportive, knowledgeable teachers to guide them through it. As content experts, our teachers are responsible for planning, preparing, and carrying out all aspects of lessons. As such, their lessons are rich in content and deep in insight.

Subject Expert Teachers consistently extend their knowledge, expertise, and enthusiasm to students—maximizing comprehension and engagement.

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

Since opening in 2011, BASIS Ahwatukee has experienced a consistent pattern of student growth and achievement. We are ranked #8 in Arizona High Schools, #6 in Phoenix, AZ Metro Area High Schools, #9 in Charter High Schools, and #11 in STEM High Schools in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*, 2023. Our class of 2023 had an overall AP Exam® pass rate of 84% and earned 163 acceptances to different colleges and universities.



# BASIS CHARTER SCHOOLS CLASS OF 2023

Total Scholarship by graduates

**\$79,837,396**

*Naviance, 2023 (based on self-reported data)*

Average scholarship award  
earned per graduate

**\$112,447**

*Naviance, 2023 (based on self-reported data)*

Average  
ACT score

**30**

Average  
SAT score

**1397**

*The College Board, 2023*

*SAT® is a trademark registered/owned by the College Board and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, and ACT® is a registered trademark of ACT, Inc., which do not endorse and were not involved in the production of this publication.*

## College Acceptance Rates

Percent of 2023 BASIS Charter School graduates accepted to one or more U.S. News & World Report top National Universities and National Liberal Arts Colleges

Top 100

**62%**

Top 50

**43%**

Top 25

**23%**

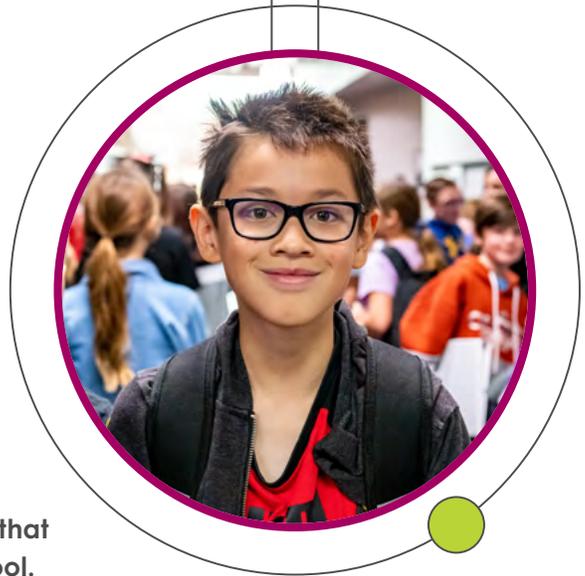
Top 20

**16%**

*U.S. News & World Report National University Rankings and National Liberal Arts College Rankings, 2023  
College acceptance information self-reported by students: Naviance, 2023*

# PRIMARY SCHOOL PROGRAM

We consider grades 4–5 to be transition years, and scaffold our approach with students accordingly, allowing them to attain greater academic independence. Students learn to think critically, require less guidance from teachers, master challenging content, and become more accountable for their work. In addition, students further improve upon fundamental skills—organization, time management, problem-solving, and study strategies—that will allow them to excel in middle school and high school.



## WRITING ENRICHMENT AND WRITING MASTERY (Grades 4–5)

In Writing Enrichment and Writing Mastery, students develop sentence, paragraph, and multi-paragraph writing skills through content-focused writing. Students practice writing in different disciplines using content from their History, Science, and English courses.

## ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY (Grade 4)

Engineering and Technology introduces students to the processes, tools, and techniques of engineering design. Students will also be introduced to various modes of technology (tablets and/or Chromebooks) to develop touch typing and basic computer literacy skills that are developmentally appropriate for their grade level. Students develop problem-solving, logic, and relationship skills through hands-on, real-world projects that integrate content from core courses with technology and design.

## FINE ARTS (Grades 4–5)

Students in Visual Arts learn how to apply their knowledge of the elements and principles of art and design to production, criticism, aesthetics, art history, and multi-cultural studies. Likewise, students in Music apply their musical skills to reading, interpreting, and performing a varied repertoire of music. In Theatre, they advance their skills in dramatic performance by learning how artistic choices create meaning and analyzing theater productions from multiple angles.

GRADES  
4–5

## COURSE OVERVIEW

\* All courses are subject to change

- **English**
- **Math**
  - Arithmetic A (Grade 4)
  - Arithmetic B (Grade 5)
- **Science**
- **Physical Geography** (Grade 5)
- **Engineering and Technology** (Grade 4)
- **History** (Grade 4)
- **U.S. History (pre-contact Americas to Industrial Revolution)** (Grade 5)
- **Writing Enrichment** (Grade 4)
- **Writing Mastery** (Grade 5)
- **PE and Sports**
- **Fine Arts**
  - Visual Arts
  - Theatre (Grade 4)
  - Music



## MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Our comprehensive middle school curriculum is designed to progressively move students toward a greater understanding of fundamental concepts in each subject. Teachers set high expectations and design instruction that is challenging and engaging, requiring students to refine their critical thinking skills and analyze content in deeper, more meaningful ways. As such, BASIS Charter School students far exceed traditional middle school standards and master advanced material that is normally taught in high school. For example, starting in grade 6 students take three science courses—biology, physics, and chemistry—each year to prepare for Honors and AP science courses. Through this progression of content, students master the material needed to excel in our high school program.

As your student enters grade 8, they will be mastering complex concepts and skills, taking responsibility for their educational goals, and focusing on their post-BASIS future. The rigor of grade 8 will help students prepare for the challenges of grades 9–12, where they will have the opportunity to take a wide range of Advanced Placement® Exams, as well as post-AP and Capstone courses. On average, your student may take 11 to 12 AP® Exams prior to graduation, with their overall grades reflecting test performance.

Due to the accelerated nature of the BASIS Charter School Curriculum, your student could meet the state requirements to graduate after grade 11. However, most students continue their studies into grade 12 and take advantage of the advanced study opportunities we offer to our seniors. A daily College Counseling Seminar fosters the exploration of different universities, career paths, and scholarship opportunities to encourage your student's achievement of post-graduation goals. Additionally, our counselors will help your student navigate financial aid, prepare for interviews, and facilitate college planning nights for families.

## LATIN (Grade 6)

Students will develop knowledge of the structures of Latin, Romance languages in general, and English. They learn Latin vocabulary, grammar, syntax, and etymology, as well as discover connections to scientific vocabulary. As students deepen their understanding of the Latin language, a greater emphasis is placed on the fundamental elements of Latin translation via sentences and short reading passages. While learning Latin, students also explore Roman culture and history, as well as its impact on modern languages and societies.

## LINGUISTICS (Grade 7)

BASIS Charter Schools are thrilled to offer a groundbreaking program developed by experts that teaches students to analyze the fundamentals of language. Addressing topics that are typically only taught at the university level, BASIS Linguistics includes Linguistics 7 as a precursor to world language selections in grade 8. In Linguistics 7, students deepen their content knowledge by analyzing data sets, diagramming sentences, and exploring the phonetics and phonology of the languages that will be offered in grade 8. The BASIS Linguistics course equips students with the necessary tools to be successful language learners and teaches them that science can be used to understand language.

## SPORK MATH

SPORK Math is comprised of the following courses: Arithmetic A (grade 4), Arithmetic B (grade 5), Pre-Algebra (grade 6), Algebra I (grade 7), Algebra II (grade 8), Pre-Calculus A, B, AB (grades 9–10). SPORK Math is delivered through tablets, allowing us to update the curriculum every year, to ensure that we are responsive to our students' needs. This method of delivery facilitates rapid homework communication between teachers and students, making time spent in the classroom more productive. For example, while students are doing homework, they can mark the problems they are struggling with the most. Their teacher will receive that information in real-time and can come to class the next day with a lesson prepared to address those concepts. Long term, SPORK Math will help teachers identify the areas students struggle with the most, allowing them to adapt their lessons and plan for extra practice.





### **ART HISTORY & PRACTICE** (Grade 6)

In Art History & Practice, students explore the world of art through a historical lens. They apply key concepts—themes, materials, or techniques—and vocabulary from each time period to their own creations and performances. In addition, students make connections across cultures, beliefs, and artists' perspectives to learn what inspires artists to create.

### **VISUAL ARTS** (Grades 7–12)

Visual Arts courses focus on identifying and achieving artistic goals; creating, reflecting, and evaluating art; and understanding art in social and cultural context.

### **THEATRE** (Grades 7–12)

Theatre courses require students to apply previously learned skills and knowledge in the context of a production-based class.

### **MUSIC** (Grades 7–12)

Music courses focus on technique and performance.



# THE SENIOR PROGRAM

The BASIS Charter School Curriculum culminates with the Senior Program, which plays a vital role in preparing students for college. After completing their junior year, most BASIS Charter School students have earned enough credits to meet state graduation requirements and have the option to graduate early; however, the majority choose to complete their senior year and earn the BASIS Diploma with Honors or High Honors.

The Senior Program is comprised of a daily College Counseling Seminar, advanced Capstone courses, and a Senior Project that is completed off campus.

## COLLEGE COUNSELING SEMINAR

A unique aspect of our Senior Program is the College Counseling Seminar. In this course, students explore different colleges and universities, write application essays, apply for scholarships, navigate financial aid, and prepare for interviews. Our dedicated College Guidance Coordinators work hard to ensure that all students are prepared for the college application process and find the school that is the best fit for them as an individual. College Guidance Coordinators help students navigate the college application process by facilitating campus visits, hosting university admissions representatives, providing feedback on applications and personal essays, supplying news about scholarships, and hosting financial aid and college planning nights for families.

*"Parents and students often fixate on the end result of 'getting into college.' In the College Counseling Seminar, however, students get to know themselves and learn the important skills of problem-solving, weighing priorities, risk-taking, and developing resiliency. These skills will stay with them even beyond their college years."*

—Lisa Jacobs, Sr. College Counselor,  
BASIS Ahwatukee



## CAPSTONE COURSES

During the first two trimesters of their senior year, BASIS Charter School students take Capstone courses designed to emulate a college classroom where students are engaged in independent research, lab work, and seminar-style discussion. Capstone courses cover complex material and require students to learn about a specific topic in depth. Courses span the academic disciplines and serve as a bridge between high school academic standards and college scholarship.

### Examples of Capstone Courses:

- Shakespeare on the Stage
- Popular Music as Literature
- History of Food
- Disease and Immune Response
- Multivariable Calculus
- Statistics
- Organic Chemistry
- U.S. Immigration and Ethnicity
- Earth and Space Science
- Quantum Mechanics
- Biological Anthropology

\* Capstone courses offered vary year-to-year and by campus.

# SENIOR PROJECTS

Senior Projects are the true synthesis and culmination of a student's journey through the BASIS Charter School Curriculum. Through these comprehensive projects, BASIS Charter School seniors combine their creativity, critical thinking skills, and deep content knowledge to make a real and direct impact on their communities and the world. Students can complete the Senior Project in one of two ways: they can do a traditional Senior Project, or they can do a Senior Project that aligns with the AP Capstone™ curriculum. Students who successfully complete a Senior Project earn a BASIS Diploma with High Honors.

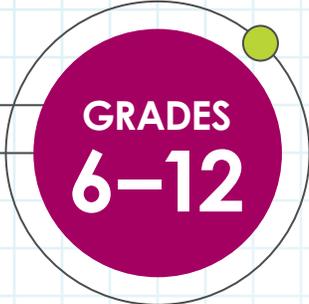
## TRADITIONAL SENIOR PROJECTS

The BASIS Diploma Senior Project is a selective program that requires students to dedicate the final trimester of their senior year to researching or developing an original idea in a field of their choosing. In addition to developing a project of the student's choice and design, Senior Projects also entail an off-campus experience, such as an internship, job shadow, or volunteer position. These experiences can take them across the nation or around the world. Students are guided by a faculty member at their BASIS Charter School, plus a mentor at their off-campus site. At the end of the trimester, students present their findings to their peers, teachers, and parents.

## AP CAPSTONE-BASED SENIOR PROJECTS

Through the AP Capstone™ curriculum, BASIS Charter School students design, plan, and conduct year-long research projects, applying their knowledge to real-world problems. Students are guided by a faculty member at their BASIS Charter School, as well as a mentor at their off-campus research site. In addition to submitting an initial project proposal, the AP Research course (the second course in the AP Capstone sequence) requires students to write a 4,000- to 5,000-word academic essay on their chosen topic, and then present their findings





# GRADES 6-12

# COURSE OVERVIEW

\* All courses are subject to change

## MATH (minimum course-level requirements)

- **Grade 6** Pre-Algebra
- **Grade 7** Algebra & Geometry I
- **Grade 8** Algebra & Geometry II
- **Grade 9** Pre-Calculus A
- **Grades 9-10** AP Pre-Calculus
- **Grade 10** AP Calculus AB
- **Grade 11** AP Calculus BC
- **Grade 12** Math Capstone

## SCIENCE

- **Grades 6-8** Biology, Chemistry, and Physics (all three each year)
- **Grade 9** First Honors Science (Biology, Chemistry, or Physics)
- **Grade 10** Second Honors Science; first AP Science
- **Grade 11** Third Honors Science, second AP Science, or AP Elective
- **Grade 12** Science Capstone

## SOCIAL SCIENCES

- **Grade 6** World History I (pre-history to Enlightenment)
- **Grade 7** World History II (Age of Exploration to Cold War Era) and Arizona History
- **Grade 8** U.S. History (Industrial Revolution to Civil Rights Movement)
- **Grade 9** AP U.S. Government and Politics
- **Grade 10** AP World History: Modern
- **Grade 11** AP U.S. History
- **Grade 12** Humanities Capstone

## ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS

- **Grades 6-8** English
- **Grade 9** Honors English Literature, and Honors English Language
- **Grade 10** AP English Literature or AP English Language
- **Grade 11** Second AP English
- **Grade 12** Humanities Capstone

## WORLD LANGUAGE

- **Grade 6** Latin
- **Grade 7** Linguistics
- **Grades 8-11** French, Latin, Mandarin, or Spanish
- **Grade 12** World Language Capstone

## FINE ARTS, PE, AND ELECTIVES

- **Grade 6** Art History & Practice (Visual Arts, Music, or Theatre) and PE & Sports
- **Grade 7** Music, Visual Arts, Theatre, or PE
- **Grades 8-12** General electives\*, AP elective, or Post-AP elective

## OTHER

- **Grade 7** Computer Logic
- **Grade 8** Economics

\* Minimum of one Fine Arts elective required.

A variety of subjects, including AP courses, are available as electives. Please contact the school to review possible electives for the upcoming school year.





## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Extracurricular activities enhance the learning experience and provide opportunities for enrichment, socialization, and achievement beyond the classroom. These activities allow students to interact with different groups, pursue individual interests, and develop new skills. To participate in extracurricular activities, students must exhibit good behavior and maintain a strong academic standing. As such, they learn to balance outside activities with advanced coursework, an important time management skill that will benefit them throughout their education.

### EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES OFFERED AT BASIS AHWATUKEE MAY INCLUDE\*:

- Basketball
- Board Game Club
- Books & Bagels
- Chamber Music Club
- Chess Club
- Cross Country
- Dance
- Drama
- Drama Club – Off Stage
- Health Action Council
- Leadership Club
- LEGO Robotics
- Magic the Gathering Club
- MATHCOUNTS
- Medical Club
- Mock Trial
- Mustang Economic Society
- National Chinese Honor Society
- National French Honor Society
- National Hispanic Honor Society
- National Honor Society
- National Junior Honor Society
- Science Bowl
- Speech & Debate
- Sports Skills Development Program
- Student Ambassadors (BAMbassadors)
- Soccer
- Swim
- Tennis
- VEX Robotics
- Volleyball
- Yearbook

*\* Extracurricular activities offered vary by campus and from year-to-year based on student interest.*



## F

### WHAT ARE BASIS CHARTER SCHOOLS?

The BASIS Charter Schools network comprises 39 charter schools across Arizona, Louisiana, Texas, and Washington, D.C. All BASIS Charter Schools utilize the BASIS Charter School Curriculum, which encourages self-motivation and hard work, allows students to master advanced content and thoroughly prepares them for college.

## A

### HOW DO I APPLY?

All applications must be submitted through the online enrollment portal at [enrollBASIS.com](https://enrollBASIS.com). Parents/guardians should complete and submit student enrollment applications during the Open Enrollment period. However, applications are accepted throughout the year. You may apply to more than one BASIS Charter School, but you must submit separate applications, per student, to each school. Applications do not need to be signed in order to be entered in the lottery. Applicants who are offered enrollment at a BASIS Charter School will be provided with instructions for accepting the offer, completing the online registration form, and submitting registration documents to the school.

## Q

### HOW DO THE LOTTERY AND WAITLIST WORK?

Every year, there is an Open Enrollment period for the following school year. Applications submitted during Open Enrollment and outside of Open Enrollment are processed differently. Please note that the exact Open Enrollment dates and lottery dates are determined on a year-to-year basis. Information will be available on [enrollBASIS.com](https://enrollBASIS.com) once this year's dates are finalized.

If you apply during Open Enrollment: If the number of applications received during Open Enrollment exceeds the number of openings (at any grade level), enrollment is determined by a lottery and waitlist. The Open Enrollment period for BASIS Charter Schools is NOT first-come, first-served. Instead, applicants are added to a lottery pool. To be included in the lottery, you need to apply by midnight on the last day of Open Enrollment. After the Open Enrollment period ends, lottery drawings are held. You will receive the results directly from the school(s) you applied to. Families that do not receive an enrollment offer from the lottery will be added to a waitlist.

If you apply outside of Open Enrollment: Applications submitted after the Open Enrollment period has ended will be added to a waitlist and processed on a first-come, first-served basis, following any applications received during Open Enrollment. Schools will continue to make offers to waitlisted applicants as seats become available. There is not a lottery for applications submitted outside of Open Enrollment.

*BASIS Charter School enrollment policies are available for review in the enrollment application portal at [enrollBASIS.com](https://enrollBASIS.com).*

### WILL I HAVE TO PAY TUITION?

No. BASIS Charter Schools are tuition-free.



### **WHAT IS THE SCHOOL-YEAR SCHEDULE?**

The start date for each school is determined by the Head of School and leadership team, and then announced on the school's website. To reduce the chance of scheduling conflicts for BASIS Charter School families with students in multiple grade levels, or who attend different schools, we try to align our school calendars with district school calendars. We follow a traditional school year, starting in August with one week for Fall Break and one week for Spring Break. To maximize academic instruction time, BASIS Charter Schools do not include professional development (in-service) days on the school calendar.

### **DO YOU HAVE BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS?**

Yes. BASIS Charter Schools offer the Early Bird and Late Bird programs to assist parents/guardians whose schedules do not align with the schools' scheduled start and end times.

### **DO YOU PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION?**

No. BASIS Charter Schools do not provide transportation for students to and from school at this time. However, we encourage members of our parent-volunteer booster clubs to identify carpool opportunities.

### **HOW MUCH HOMEWORK DO STUDENTS RECEIVE?**

Homework volume differs by grade level and by student. For example, the average grade 5 BASIS Charter School student is assigned one hour of homework per night. In high school, this time may increase to between two hours and four hours of homework per night.

### **DOES BASIS CHARTER SCHOOLS OFFER PHYSICAL EDUCATION?**

Yes. Students in grades 5 and 6 are required to participate in PE and Sports classes three times per week. Beginning in grade 7, students can choose to continue with Physical Education as an elective course.

### **WHAT EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?**

BASIS Charter Schools offer extracurricular activities that enrich students' academic experience. We do our best to align extracurricular activities to serve our students' interests. As a result, extracurricular activities may not be identical at every BASIS Charter School. However, each BASIS Charter School campus offers an array of clubs and extracurricular activities in which students can participate.

### **DO STUDENTS STRUGGLE WHEN THEY TRANSFER TO A BASIS CHARTER SCHOOL DURING HIGH SCHOOL?**

High school students who transfer to a BASIS Charter School receive individualized academic plans based on the courses they have already completed at their previous school(s). These plans are intended to motivate students to reach their highest academic potential, while also considering their prior educational experience. Students who transfer to a BASIS Charter School later in the program still benefit from being part of an academically focused community and



receive a more advanced education than they would at a traditional high school.

### **DO YOU OFFER COLLEGE COUNSELING?**

Yes. The college counseling process begins early in the BASIS Charter School Curriculum. Students attend educational seminars beginning in grade 8 to become more familiar with all facets of the college admissions process. BASIS Charter School seniors take a daily College Counseling Seminar, in which they explore potential colleges, submit applications, apply for scholarships, and prepare for interviews.

### **DO BASIS CHARTER SCHOOL GRADUATES RECEIVE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS?**

Yes. Each school's College Guidance Coordinator works diligently to help students find scholarship opportunities. BASIS Charter Schools graduates average over \$100,000 in merit aid.

### **WHAT COLLEGES DO BASIS CHARTER SCHOOL GRADUATES ATTEND?**

We encourage students to apply to the schools or programs that best align with their interests and goals. Our graduates attend some of the nation's most prestigious colleges and universities. In fact, 62% of 2023 BASIS Charter School graduates were accepted to a *U.S. News & World Report* top 100 ranked National University or National Liberal Arts College, including Columbia, Harvard, MIT, Princeton, Stanford, University of Chicago, and Yale.

*Notice of Non-Discrimination: In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act and applicable state law, BASIS\* does not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, gender identity or expression, or any other classification protected by law in any of its business activities, including its educational programs and activities which comply fully with the requirements of state and federal law and Title IX. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding BASIS' non-discrimination policies: Beverly Traver, Compliance and Equity Investigator, BASIS Educational Group, LLC., 7975 N. Hayden Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85258, (480) 289-2088.*

*\*As used in this policy, the term "BASIS" refers to: BASIS Educational Group, LLC, BASIS Charter Schools, Inc., BASIS Texas Charter Schools, Inc., BDC, A Public School, Inc., BBR Schools, Inc., and all affiliated entities*



Scan the QR code to view a digital version of this brochure.



# Ahwatukee

10210 South 50th Place | Phoenix, AZ 85044

